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THE TIMES

Time for a written constitution?
Lord Hailsham, page 14

nion officials act to get allot decision reversed

ate members of the engineering workers' have appealed to their executive against tion of Mr Hugh Scanlon, the union's ent, in using his casting vote to end postal in the election of senior officials. If the s fail, leaders of the union's South Wales n will seek a High Court injunction t Mr Scanlon's decision.

embers 'denied their lemocratic rights'

Routledge
Editor

ates in the dominant ing section of the ated Union of ing Workers plan a ged attack on the presi- uling that the union bandon secret postal for senior full-time nd return to the old branch votes. In the ranch votes have militant candidates.

n Weekley, president lli district committee of two moderate South lelegates sent home union's rules revision e in Blackpool last id yesterday that he ppeal to the union's council against his cation from the con-

pressed bewilderment lecision to bar him. If the reply from the is to turn down the nd the ground for the still leaves me as d as I am now, then y family row when it the point where it lmost irreconcilable, I to seek counsel else-

undamental rights of in Wales are being d, and one cannot take o democrats the right So the issue must be the interests of demo-

ppeal fails, leaders of Wales division, alded ate national officials, a High Court injunc- st the decision of Mr nlon, the president, to casting vote to end llots from the end of

eat than light has been over the past few days spute, and Mr Week- eal to the executive ejected on the ground rules apparently hat such a complaint made by a branch rather than by an individual.

The two South Wales delegates were declared ineligible to vote after a left-wing appeal to the executive last Friday, and Mr Scanlon used his casting vote first at the executive to break a 3—3 tie and send the men home and, when they had been dismissed, to break a 25—25 stalemate on the postal balloting issue.

Organizer protests: Mr Tal Lloyd, the union's South Wales divisional organizer, said yesterday that he had appealed to the executive against the disqualification of the Welsh delegates, saying that the decision had left Welsh members disfranchised from rule revision (Trevor Fishlock writes from Cardiff).

"I am not prepared to stand by and have 70,000 people disfranchised like this", he said, "and if steps are necessary to right that wrong, they will be taken. I do not want any threat to deter the executive from reaching a sensible conclusion when it hears the appeal."

He had received many telephone calls from union officials in Wales who were seriously concerned about "the improper use of power" by the executive. "I mean 'improper' in the sense that the executive has disqualified a division of the union which has been conducting its affairs properly within the union constitution", he added.

Cash for ballots: Labour's moderate Manifesto group MPs were urged yesterday to press the Government to finance postal balloting for the election of trade union officials (Our Political Staff writes). The question is likely to be discussed at the group's meeting at the Commons tomorrow.

Members of the group have already had talks with Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mr Booth, his Minister of State, but Mr Scanlon's casting vote on the AUEW ballot issue is considered to have given the proposal new importance.

Annual rate of wage rises slows to 8.9pc

By Melvyn Westlake
Economics Staff

A slowdown in the rate of pay increases at last seems to be in evidence on the basis of government figures released yesterday which suggest that, contrary to the general belief, wages rates and earnings are rising more slowly than prices.

Coming just four days after the disclosure that inflation is now running at more than 30 per cent, yesterday's statistics will be a big tonic to the Government and take the edge off of the Opposition's attack that is to be mounted in the economic debate in the Commons on Thursday.

The deceleration in the pace at which earnings have been rising is particularly marked. The Department of Employment's earnings index, which covers about thirteen million employees in production and service industries, rose 1.4 per cent in March to 212.8 (January, 1970—100).

More significantly, the annual rate of increase in earnings during the last three months is down to just 8.9 per cent—a dramatic fall from the annual rate of 19.4 per cent in the November-February period and the 33.6 per cent over the October-January period.

If the abnormal reduction in earnings that took place in the early months of last year as a result of three-day working is ignored, the latest figures register the lowest annual rate of increase over any three-month period for two years.

Unmistakably, pay packets are being affected by the deepening recession as overtime falls and short-time working spreads. The Department of Employment estimated that 219,000 workers were on short-time in mid-March.

The latest estimates, for mid-April, suggested that this number had swollen to 225,000, while the level of industrial output shows no sign of rising above its present depressed level.

Even basic wage rates, which result from national agreements and consequently are not so strongly influenced by the level of industrial activity, showed a smaller rise, at 0.2 per cent, in April (the information for wage rates is more up to date than for earnings) than for any month since November 1973.

Thus, the annual rate of increase in basic wages dropped to 24.2 per cent in the February-April period from 29.1 per cent in December-March. However the latest figures are being treated with reserve in Whitehall.

There is a strong likelihood that the April basic wage rates index will be revised upwards "significantly" when the final settlements are announced for railway, printing and electricity manual workers, which will be backdated to last month.

A figure of a steelworker being carried through London yesterday during a protest march against proposed redundancies in the industry (Report, page 4).

Government welcome for Jones pay plan

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mr Wilson and other senior Cabinet ministers yesterday welcomed at a meeting of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee Mr Jack Jones's formula for restricting wage inflation by limiting pay rises to a flat-rate limit.

The counter-inflation plan proposed at the weekend by the transport workers' leader will be discussed at a meeting between Mr Healey, the Chancellor, and the TUC economic committee tomorrow afternoon.

The talks were originally sought by union leaders to express their anxiety over the trend in government economic policy, which they argue is causing higher unemployment and raising prices.

Mr Wilson and Mr Healey are understood to have expressed support for Mr Jones's plan to rewrite the wage restraint provisions of the social contract between the TUC and the Government, so that union negotiators could not ask for more than a specified percentage percentage of average industrial earnings. The figure would be derived from the increase in the retail price index.

However, if the Jones formula is raised at tomorrow's meeting of the TUC General Council it will run into determined opposition from craft-union leaders, who are determined that wage differentials in industry shall not be eroded, even for the "limited period" of about a year that Mr Jones has in mind.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Vorster aid to Frelimo revealed in correspondence with Liberia

Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, wants to attend a summit meeting of African presidents and is trying to arrange it through President Tolbert of Liberia.

This is revealed in exchanges between the South African and Liberian Governments which have continued since Mr Vorster visited Liberia in February.

In the exchanges, reported extensively on page 7, Mr Vorster told President Tolbert that he was in touch with the Frelimo authorities in Mozambique and was giving them help, including large supplies of food.

Suggestions that a deal was being arranged between South Africa, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia for the exchange of oil for gold were not denied by the South Africans.

Mr Vorster kept in touch with President Tolbert through Mr R. F. Botha, his chief delegate to the United Nations, and Mr Stephen Tolbert, the Liberian President's brother, who died in an air crash last month.

On March 11 Mr Tolbert reported to his brother that Mr Vorster wanted the President's help in arranging meetings with President Kenyatta of Kenya, President Mobutu of Zaire and General Gowan, the Nigerian leader.

As a second step Mr Vorster hoped for a group meeting with the same African leaders which would also be attended by President Tolbert. The purpose of this summit conference would be to seek solutions to the problems of southern Africa which would be acceptable to the black leaders and Mr Vorster.

Mr Botha, who transmitted Mr Vorster's request to Mr Stephen Tolbert, made it clear that the South African Prime Minister was "begging" for Liberia's support.

Mr Botha also said that Mr Vorster wished to make a contribution to a Liberian fund for public projects. This offer was rejected by President Tolbert.

President Tolbert said he would try to arrange for Mr Vorster to meet the African leaders. However, before such a meeting Mr Vorster would have to do something "spectacularly positive and concrete" to convince Africa and the world of his sincerity in desiring changes in Southern Africa.

Dr Kissinger resumes his dialogue with Russia

From Richard Davy
Vienna, May 19

Dr Henry Kissinger and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, met here this evening for talks which will continue until tomorrow afternoon, when the American Secretary of State will go on to Bonn, Berlin and the Central Treaty Organization (Cento) meeting in Ankara.

The main subjects under discussion are the strategic arms limitation talks (Salt) and the Middle East. Other aspects of East-West relations will also be touched upon, including the Geneva conference on security and cooperation in Europe, which is now approaching its final phase.

This is the first high level American-Soviet meeting since America's withdrawal from Indo-China, so both sides will be testing the new situation. Dr Kissinger will also take the opportunity of his visits to Bonn and Berlin to reaffirm the American commitment to Europe.

At today's talks, which continued over a working dinner, the two foreign ministers were expected to concentrate on finding a way round the difficulties which have arisen in negotiating the Salt II agreement, the outline of which was agreed between President Ford and Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, in Vladivostok last November.

Both sides accepted a common ceiling of 2,400 offensive delivery vehicles, of which no more than 1,320 were to be equipped with multiple warheads.

The Americans then proceeded on the assumption that all the giant new Soviet SS18 missiles would have multiple warheads. The Russians now say that this is not so, and that some may have enormous single warheads. This raises a very difficult problem of verification since the agreement depends on the Americans knowing how many SS18s to include among the 1,320 multiple warhead vehicles, even though a single warhead could be more destructive.

Dr Kissinger is believed to have come with some new ideas on this subject, but will not get down to technical details with Mr Gromyko.

Tomorrow's talks will turn to the Middle East and are expected to pave the way for a resumption of the Geneva conference, for which the Russians have been pressing.

The reassessment of America's Middle East policy after the failure of Dr Kissinger's latest shuttle diplomacy will partly depend on what the Secretary of State learns of Soviet intentions from Mr Gromyko, but also on President Ford's meeting with President Sadat in Salzburg in two week's time and on the outcome of the subsequent visit of Mr Rabin, the Israel Prime Minister, to Washington.

Dr Kissinger had what he described as a "good and detailed talk about the world situation" with Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, this morning.

Later he threw the security men into confusion by suddenly attending a public performance at the famous Spanish Riding School. Then he had lunch with his wife.

Mr Gromyko, who arrived this morning, said that he was prepared to hold the talks in a constructive spirit and hoped for the same attitude from his partner. Not until five pm did the two ministers meet, first alone and then with large teams of advisers.

Guerrillas kill Rhodesian police reservist

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, May 19

A middle-aged white man, Mr Peter Knight, a police reservist, and four tribesmen have been murdered by guerrillas in Rhodesia's north-eastern border area, according to security forces headquarters.

Altogether there have been more than 300 incidents of murder, attempted murder, beatings and other attacks since an official ceasefire was called between Rhodesian nationalists and the Government last December. A total of 245 civilians, mostly black, have died since Rhodesia's border war resumed.

Thatcher speech

Mrs Thatcher disclosed last night that she intends to speak in the Commons debate on the state of the economy on Thursday.

Research on Broads poisoning urged

From Arthur Osman
Norwich

An integrated programme of research into the serious decline of aquatic wildlife in the 9,000 acres of water in the Norfolk Broads was urged in Norwich yesterday by the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust.

Mr Ian Mackintosh, chairman of the trust's council, said "The Broads are now a sorry sight. It may be said that they are dying."

It is accepted that no single organization can undertake the necessary inquiry, government finance of about £250,000 will probably be needed over a period of not less than five years. The project team would probably work from East Anglia University.

Mr Mackintosh said that in February and March tests showed a high toxic level in Hickling Broad, a nature reserve of international standing. On March 17 a cage of fish was put in the broad; some died within half an hour, and all died in three hours.

It was easy to blame agricultural fertilizer and sewage, but Mr Mackintosh said: "We have no hard facts; precise information is what we want."

There seems little doubt, however, that fertilizers, possibly used in excess in sugar beet and cereal production, and sewage effluent discharged into the waterways will come under the closest scrutiny.

Mr Stanley Alden, of the Norfolk & Suffolk Anglers' Conservation Council, said: "We have known of the deterioration of the Broads much longer than many. The commercial aspect of what is happening is something we should not ignore. If we had 52 weeks a year of boating, commercial interests would be highly delighted."

The trust stated: "If this deterioration is to be stopped, the full cooperation of organizations that have interests in Broadland is essential. A decline in aquatic flora and fauna has now been observed in all the Broadland river systems.

"Only a few broads isolated from the rivers still retain clear water

A study by a university team showed that 11 of the 28 Broads appeared to be completely devoid of aquatic vegetation, and in 11 others plants showed poor growth. In several only water-lilies were growing.

The trust recommended a study of five main factors, including the source and movement of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorous, the movement of agricultural fertilizers, and the output of nutrients from sewage treatment plants, industrial and recreational sites.

Other factors were: the effect of elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorous on the biology of the Broads; the effect of different uses on the Broads; the effect of further deterioration of wildlife on recreational activities, tourism and nature conservation; an economic assessment of continued deterioration and a comparative assessment of the remedies available.

"Unless some radical action is taken we fear that the decline in the wildlife of Broadland will become so advanced that restoration to even its present condition will be beyond our ability", the trust said.

enn casts t on of veto

olitical Editor

dgwood Benn, Secre- State for Industry, abour pro-Europeans asserted in the Com- terday that a unani- sion of the Council of would be necessary e any attempt by the mission to interfere Ryder report's rescue for British Leyland. statement is flatly con- repeated government that the decisions of cil of Ministers are national veto where ional interests are Replying to Mr Edelman (Coventry, t), Mr Benn said: t enter into matters of pretation. But my under- f the provisions of the at the Council of Mini- l have to be unanimous a commission decision. the United Kingdom it alone would not have do this. n will be strongly chal- his view when the bates the British Ley- on second reading to-

te: The Confederation Industry yesterday Mr Benn's calcula- unemployment caused C as spurious. tement it said Mr Benn ed that EEC member- cost Britain 500,000 had reached that figure basis that for every imports from the EEC one worker became ed immediately and another three would out of work. us nature of Mr Benn's s can be demonstrated ly by applying them to otal trade deficit with . In 1974 Mr Benn's ould have produced an nent figure of 2,750,300, four times the actual fact, we believe that if to leave the EEC, jobs fer.

Benn accused, page 5

US apology to Thailand over use of air base eases strained relations

From Bruce Palling
Bangkok, May 19

The Government of Thailand has accepted an official letter from the United States apologizing for the use of the U-Tapao air base in launching last week's rescue operation for the captured merchant ship Mayaguez.

The American message, delivered by Mr Edward Masters, the Chargé d'Affairs, to Major-General Chatichai Choonhavan, the Thai Foreign Minister, effectively eases the developing tensions between the two countries. It said:

The United States regrets the misunderstanding that has arisen between Thailand and the United States in regard to the temporary placing of Marines at U-Tapao to assist in the rescue of the Mayaguez. The United States Government wishes to express its understanding of the problem caused to the Royal Thai Government and wishes to repeat its regret.

The unique circumstances that have led to the recent turn of events do not alter this [American-Thai] traditional relationship and are not going to be repeated.

Although in essence the letter went no farther than the weekend speech by Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, when he also expressed regret at any embarrassment the incident may have caused the Thai Government, Mr Kukrit Pramoj, the Prime Minister, said he was particularly pleased with the assurance that this sort of incident would not be repeated.

But General Chatichai said the Thai Ambassador to the United States would still be recalled to Bangkok for consultations, and the review of all treaties and agreements between the two countries would still go ahead.

The Note was well received by leaders of the three-day demonstration outside the American Embassy in Bangkok, who agreed to call off the protest. "We did as well as you can expect by getting the written apology from the United States", Mr Seksan Prasertkul, a leading student activist, said.

A less optimistic note was sounded at the departure of the three-man delegation from the new South Vietnamese Government, who have been trying to negotiate the return of the 50-odd South Vietnamese aircraft flown by pilots fleeing from Saigon on the eve of the communist takeover and still standing at U-Tapao.

They said the Thais' failure to respond "has not created favourable conditions for the establishment of new relations". But the delegation did welcome Bangkok's recognition of the new Government in Saigon.

Photograph, page 6
Leading article, page 15

Institutions spark surge on stock market

Unit trusts and other institutional buyers helped share prices to rise sharply on the first day of the new trading Account in equities yesterday. The FT index was up 12 points at 353.8, within a few points of the year's peak. Gilts also improved, aided by further cuts in American bank prime rates Page 17

Labour peers 'no' to longer sitting

Labour peers are opposed to sitting longer into August than members in the Commons, even though there is likely to be severe congestion with government legislation in the Upper House. Opposition peers, however, expect the programme to be drastically changed Page 2

Bomb on crash jet

A bomb detonated in the rear cargo compartment of the Trans-World Airline's Boeing 707 that crashed off Greece last September killing 88, an official United States report says

Tory policy centre likely to close

Sir Keith Joseph's policy centre, established before the leadership election, is likely to close now that Mrs Thatcher has control of Tory research, our Political Editor writes. Sir Keith's agreement before it is absorbed or given a new brief will be needed Page 2

Newspaper seized

A full assembly of Portugal's Armed Forces Movement opened yesterday as communist workers seized editorial control of a socialist paper, setting the stage for a confrontation in the streets of Lisbon Page 6

Jump in retail sales

Heavy pre-Budget spending during April was confirmed by figures given by the Department of Industry yesterday. They show retail sales soared 7½ per cent above the March level Page 17

Secret payments

Undisclosed political contributions running into many millions of dollars allegedly made by Exxon, the world's largest company, are being investigated by the American Securities and Exchange Commission and a Senate sub-committee Page 6

Basque crisis talks

A report on the arrests and violence in the Basque country was given by the Bishop of Bilbao to the Vatican envoy in Madrid yesterday Page 6

Social contract: Mr Tom Jackson, leader of the Union of Post Office workers, yesterday condemned unions that broke the social contract 2

Pay rise call: Public service workers in local authorities and the NHS yesterday decided to press for a minimum wage of £40 plus, one-third above the present minimum 2

General Assembly: Protests are likely today at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland over a Roman Catholic address 4

Uganda: President Amin threatens to "destroy" Tanzania if President Nyerere prevents the Organization of African United meeting in Kampala 6

Middle East: Tension on the West Bank increases as Israel forces arrest 69 Arabs in hunt for saboteurs 7

Labour museum: Mr Wilson opens museum at Limehouse, where one of his pipes has its place amid memorials of socialism 12

collapse

May 19.—Mr Eisaku e former Japanese inister, collapsed with apoplexy during a with businessmen at a staurant tonight. He is er.

Union leader launches attack on breakers of social contract

From Tim Jones
Labour Staff
Blackpool

In a spirited defence of the social contract, Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the *Union of Post Officer Workers*, yesterday condemned unions that breached the guidelines as being "*more concerned* with group self-interest than with society as a whole".

Mr Jackson, a member of the TUC General Council, told *1,600 delegates at the annual* conference at Blackpool: "Those who break the social contract are not romantic heroes of the working class. They are destroyers of our government. They are more concerned with individual self-*interest than they are with* pensioners and the low-paid."

The TUC he said, was looking again at the social contract, and this time "the contract must stick".

Referring to the suggestion by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, that *flat-rate increases should rep*lace percentage rises, he said: "*It would be nice to be cer*tain that everyone is treated alike, but there are many snags.

"But I am with him on one *thing: if there are to be sacri*fices to be made those sacrifices must be borne heaviest by those whose pay is heaviest."

Mr Jackson warned trade union militants that their actions might bring about the downfall of the Labour Government. "The movement *has helped to destroy Labour* governments before, and it has regretted it within weeks."

Similar warnings came from Mr Harry Jones, chairman of *the 200,000-strong union, in his* reference to the social contract. "That it worked at the beginning is certain; that it is *now faltering is also certain*. The contract must be looked at again by both the TUC and the Government.

"For unless we can work out a way of living together, cooperating to improve life for all, we shall fail in our tasks, *as will the Labour Govern*ment."

The trade union movement *was more than group* self-interest. "It is about more than the strong obtaining the prize. It is and always has been about fairness and justice for all."

Recalling that the Government had condemned the *postmen* for breaking the contract with their last pay award, *Mr Jones said*: "It was wrong of them to do so. The settlement we achieved with a new *new threshold* has its justification in the TUC economic review, *which was published* just before our settlement."

Obedience demand: Union "big boys" must be told to obey the social contract, a *craft union* in the engineering industry was told yesterday (our *Blackpool correspondent* writes).

Delegates to the conference of the National Society of Metal Mechanics pledged support for the *contract* and called on the TUC to use its authority to make it a success.

Mr William Leach, of Wandsworth, referring to the *miners, told delegates* representing 55,000 members: "We, that is, Great Britain, have got to turn round to these big boys and say: 'You may be big and *great, but* you have to abide by the contract.' We have to say to these big boys—the Scanlons, the Fishers and the Gormleys—that this is what we mean: you have to obey the contract."

Workers in public service want 33pc rise

From Raymond Perman
Labour Staff
Scarborough

In an expression of no confi*dence in the Government's abi*lity to reduce the rate of inflation before the end of the year, the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) took the first step yesterday towards an increase of a third in the TUC's minimum wage target.

*Delegates to the union's con*ference in Scarborough voted unanimously to press for a £40 minimum wage and a 35-hour week.

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary, confirmed after the debate that Nupe *will propose* at the Trades Union Congress in September that the figure should replace the present low-pay target of £30. His union represents 500,000 workers in local authorities and the National Health Service.

The Transport and General Workers, the largest union in the TUC, is likely to endorse that figure at its conference in July.

Those two unions were in the forefront of the movement at the beginning of the present bargaining round to use the social contract to raise the wages of the low paid. Critics said that by maintaining differentials of higher-paid workers they had used the £30 target to increase the general level of wage settlements.

Nupe represents some of the lowest-paid workers, such as dustmen, home-helps, and sewerage workers in local government and ancillary workers in hospitals, and its pay negotiations open the autumn round of wage bargaining.

Mr Fisher said that the union would be accused of breaking the social contract, ruining the country, and feeding the furnaces of inflation.

"We do not want to get into the situation where we are printing pound notes in this country and paying ourselves in pennies. If inflation continues at the rate at which it is running now, 30 per cent, *then* by any measurement to maintain the standard we have established we will have to get an increase to £40 a week.

"We do not see this as an inflationary pay demand; we see it as one that is necessary. If the public want the service our members provide they have got to be *prepared to pay* for it."

Mr Fisher said that 70 per *cent of the male workers* in local government and 54 per cent of all employees in the National Health Service were already on bonus schemes, which effectively pushed up their basic rates by a third.

The conference backed demands for increases in the pay of heavy goods vehicle drivers, such as the drivers of dustcarts, with a view to bringing them into line with those in private industry.

A call for a campaign to end *private practice* in the National Health Service and the *nationalization* of the pharmaceutical industry was carried unanimously.

Lucan Hunt: Wing Commander Kenneth Wallis (above) lifting off yesterday near Newhaven in an autogyro carrying infrared cameras to take pictures up to 2,000ft above the Sussex Downs in an attempt to provide further clues to the disappearance of Lord Lucan. It is hoped that the film, which was given to the police, will show any tell-tale signs of a burial. Lord Lucan has been sought since his children's nurse was found murdered last November in London. The autogyro *made an emergency landing at one stage* in the operation, but took off again after an adjustment.

Sir Keith's research centre faces closure

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Thatcher and her advisers are considering the future of the independent Centre for Policy Studies, which under the leadership of Sir Keith Joseph, the Shadow Cabinet's chief *policymaker*, was established before the Conservative leadership election "to *undertake* research and education in economic and social affairs". The centre is likely to *vanish in a reorganization* of the Conservative research department.

It is argued that now Mr Heath has been supplanted, and Mrs Thatcher has control of the well established Conservative research department in Old Queen Street, the centre created in January is unnecessary, and also siphons off funds from the party itself.

Sir Keith, Mrs Thatcher, and Sir Geoffrey Howe created and partly financed the centre when, after the October general election, they became disenchanted with some of the policy to which Mr Heath's leadership committed them. It is sa[id] *about* £60,000 was invo[lved] a time when the p[arty was] desperately in need of [money].

Because Sir Keith [was the] principal initiator, his [agree]ment will be needed be[fore the] centre is absorbed in[to the re]search department or [given a] new brief. But since S[ir Keith] now has a policy-mak[ing role] and Mr Angus Maud[e, Mrs] Thatcher's nominee, r[uns the] research department, the [possi]bility of duplication o[f effort] and expense is plain.

The centre has liais[ed with] the research dep[artment] through Mr Adam [...] originally a nominee [of Mr] Heath as Opposition le[ader].

The centre's progra[mme to] begin with was a deve[lopment] of the freelance role M[r Heath] gave Sir Keith, at [his] request, after the F[ebruary] 1974, general election. [It in]cluded *comparisons* of institutions and achie[vements] with those of other [in]dustrialized countries.

Flixborough prosecution sought

By Neville Hodgkinson

The *British Safety Council* is seeking immediate legal action against Nypro (UK) Ltd, which ran the Flixborough chemical plant, over the unlicensed *storage of large quantities of* volatile liquids at the time of the explosion last June.

It has urged the local authority to prosecute under *the Petroleum (Consolidation)* Act, 1928, and is taking legal advice on initiating a prosecution itself.

The court of inquiry into the explosion said *in its report* that the unlicensed storage had no effect on the disaster, but that it was useless to have so ineffective a licensing system.

Mr Harold Walker, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, has said that the breach *was probably technical, as* local authority officials indicated that the substances would have been approved if Nypro had sought a licence in respect of them.

Return to criminal abortions feared

John Roper
Medical Reporter

Abortions in the private sector are mainly restricted to *women coming from abroad*, Mr Peter Diggory, consultant gynaecologist at Kingston Hospital, said yesterday.

More than 82 per cent of abortions in England and Wales on British women were in NHS *hospitals* or in charitable non-profitmaking nursing homes.

Speaking at a press conference arranged by a charitable organization, the Pregnancy Advisory Service, to present their evidence to the select committee considering the Bill to amend the Abortion Act, Mr Diggory said that if the Bill was *passed it would have a* disastrous effect on terminations in the NHS. Doctors would be hampered and women would be frightened, leading many to return to *criminal* abortion.

Mr Keith Hindell, the service's vice-chairman, said they coped in a year with about 12,000 women seeking abortions and 60,000 *had* sought their help since they began. No NHS hos*pital had that sort of experience*.

The Bill seemed to be directed to making motherhood compulsory for pregnant women with few exceptions. One clause would make it impossible for them to operate as they now did and might even cause the service to close.

The clause that prevented *advice being given would*, as far as they understood it, stop a solicitor from giving advice to a woman client about the law on abortion if he charged a fee.

The memorandum to the select committee, which is supported by the Marie Stopes Memorial Trust, criticizes the Bill clause by clause and includes *case histories* to support the views presented.

It concludes that abuses of the Act can be dealt with within the existing criminal law and through administrative powers granted to the Department of Health. The best way of eliminating abuses was to improve facilities within the NHS.

Pessimism over future o[f] Ulster Convention grow[s]

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Arguments between Roman Catholic and Protestant political leaders attempting to draw up an agreed set of procedural rules for the new constitutional *Convention* continued late into the evening at Stormont yesterday.

The bitter debate between representatives of the two main power blocks making up the rules committee has greatly increased pessimism about the Convention's chance of reaching any kind of formula acceptable to Westminster for Ulster's future government.

The original timetable for the Convention's work has been put back, and if no element of compromise is reached the Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party may *still try* to fight its case in the courts. A leading SDLP member said *yesterday*: "Our representatives on the committee are fighting very stubbornly for rights which we think are fundamental if the Convention is going to work as intended. It is a discussion body, and for that reason *the minority must* have a proper opportunity to express its point of view."

The divisions between the three SDLP members and the seven representatives of the "loyalist" coalition on the committee centre on the way the *Convention will present* its findings. The loyalists argue that there should be only one final report, acknowledging that interim reports may be submitted.

It is believed that Mr Rees's interpretation of the Northern Ireland Act comes closer on that point to the view taken by *the loyalists* than to the claim being pressed by the SDLP, that the Convention should have the power to produce majority and minority reports.

Earlier in the day five young remand prisoners broke out of their cell under the magistrates' court near Belfast city centre. Shoppers outside the court *ducked as a policeman* opened fire with a pistol as the youths ran towards a republican area near by. A search was mounted for them; one was thought to have been hit by a bullet.

The five were all dressed in civilian clothes and waiting in *the cell to be driven back to* Crumlin Road jail. Three had just been remanded on bank robbery charges and *possessing explosives*. T[hey] prised open a skylight, on the roof, *scaled* a wire fence and dropp[ed] into the yard of a fire [station] adjoining the court.

Killing claim: The [...] Militants, an *Ulster* P[rotestant] extremist group, claimed responsibility [for kill]*ing Francis Rice*, ag[ed ..., a] Roman Catholic, of [Castle]wellan, co Down (t[he Press] Association reports). [He] was found shot thr[ough the] chest and left *knee*, i[n ...] on Saturday.

The group said th[at a ...] and a *cylinder bomb* [at a] bar at Crossgar, co [Down, on] Saturday night, were [reprisal] acts for the murder of [a ...] man last week. The bo[mb failed] *to explode*.

Prisoners' protest: Six [repub]lican prisoners on re[mand in] Crumlin Road jail, Be[lfast, yes]terday said they wou[ld refuse] prison food and not [co-operate] with staff in protest [at what] they call "the unw[arranted] harassment and [...] searches of visitors [by the] prison authorities".

The Northern Irela[nd Office] said that the men are [allowed] to have one food parc[el a week] sent in.

Posthumous awards: [Two] policemen shot dead i[n a terro]rist ambush in Norther[n Ireland] more than two years [ago have] been posthumously aw[arded the] Queen's Police Me[dal for] Gallantry, it was a[nnounced] yesterday.

They were Constabl[e ...] Macauley, aged 44, mar[ried with] two sons, who had serv[ed in the] RUC for 17 years, and C[onstable] *William Raymond Wy*[lie, aged] 25, married with one, [who] had been in the forc[e ...] months.

The men were [shot in] February, 1973, on *pa*[trol in co] Antrim. They had stop[ped their] car in a lonely lane to [examine a] suspect vehicle parked [near a] house ruin, when the [gunmen] opened fire.

Constable Wylie mar[naged to] return fire before dyi[ng. Con]stable Macauley, [...] wounded in the chest, [held] the three terrorists [at bay] handed for 15 minut[es before] they fled. He died in [hospital] four weeks later.

Three men were gi[ven life] sentences for the murde[rs].

Civil servants angry over lack of Ulster privileges

From Peter Hennessy
Eastbourne

Mr William McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, criticized the Government yesterday for refusing to grant spe*cial pay and leave allowances* to officials working in Northern Ireland.

He told the annual conference of the institution, *which represents 100,000 spe*cialists in the professional, scientific and technical grades of the Civil Service, meeting in Eastbourne, that in spite of an *appeal to the Prime Minister*, the Government had refused to award an annual allowance of £150 and an extra week's leave to those civil servants who *enjoyed one month's leave or* less. He said: "The government rested their case on the proposition that it would be unacceptable for the Govern*ment to treat civil servants as* a privileged class in Northern Ireland. We were not seeking privileges, and the Government ignored the practice of many other employers in giving a wider range of benefits to their *employees* to compensate for the stress and strain of carrying out their duties in Northern Ireland."

The institution has submitted a *revised claim* to Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, seeking special allowances for civil servants in particular danger in the border areas

Mr McCall *also criticized* the Government for recruiting too many over-qualified civil servants and endangering the career prospects of his members.

The general secretary welcomed the suggestion made by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, that the social contract should be revised to provide flat-rate increases for all employees: "The only answer which has a long term chance of success is for new initiatives to be taken to make the social contract and the TUC guidelines work", he said.

Former major's denials in Scots army case

Frederick Boothby, aged 65, a retired army major, a *cousin* of Lord Boothby, denied in the High Court in Glasgow yesterday that his was the mind behind the creation of a secret *Scottish army*.

*Major Boothby, of Brough*ton, Borders, is one of six men who deny conspiring to further the purposes of the Scottish Army of the Provisional Government by criminal means.

Mr Neil Gow, QC, his counsel, asked Major Boothby: "It may be suggested to you that you are a kind of armchair general and that you are the mastermind behind this so-called guerrilla operation we have been hearing about?"

Major Boothby replied: "No, Sir, I would never tolerate bloodshed among our *people unless they* were attacked by someone outside the country." He said there was no truth in the suggestion that his shepherd's cottage *in the Border hills* has been used as a general army headquarters for the clandestine revolution.

The trial continues today.

Developers keep head out of £168,000 school

From Our Correspondent
Reading

Mr Paul Wootten, a headmaster, has a new school for his 250 pupils which cost *£168,000* but he is not allowed to enter it.

Developers who own sur*rounding land* have banned anyone from crossing it until their application, two years old, to build on the site at Tilehurst, Berkshire, is decided.

Parents of children about to attend Downsway primary school, due to open in September, have been *stopped* from inspecting it. Prospective staff can only look at the building from fifty yards away.

Mr Wootten said yesterday: "*It is an odd situation.*"

R. K. Francis Southern Developments, of Littlehampton, *which sold* the 5½-acre school site, says there have been unnecessary delays over its outline application to build up to 400 houses on the remaining *40 acres*.

"We regret causing difficulties for the headmaster and parents, but we have been forced to lay off 300 men", *the company said*.

An area planning official at Newbury denied that there had been unnecessary delays. "We are awaiting the views of the Department of the Environment", he said yesterday.

Berkshire education authority said: "We shall have to take steps to protect accesses to the school."

Pay claim halts ship-to-shore radio messages

Ship-to-shore radio communications are affected by industrial action by radio station operators, the Post Office said yesterday.

Operators at seven stations stopped work yesterday over a pay claim. Commercial telegraph and radio-telephones were affected, but all distress *services were fully manned*, a statement said. Coast radio stations were continuing to broadcast navigation warnings to shipping.

The *dispute involved Portis*head Radio, long range, and North Foreland, Land's End, Ilfracombe, *Portpatrick*, Stonehaven and Anglesey coast stations.

The operators' pay was not due for review until June 1, but the Post Office was preparing to make an offer within the next 24 hours.

Dismissed printers seize newspaper office

Printers who have been dismissed from a Kent weekly newspaper, the *Gravesend and Dartford Reporter*, took over *the building yesterday*. They moved in and occupied the premises early in the morning, and resisted all attempts by the management to get in.

The police were called to the offices at Gravesend, but they allowed the sit-in to continue *after checking* that no damage was being done. Last night four members of the management were allowed into the building.

The printers, members of the National Graphical Association, were dismissed from the paper a fortnight ago for refusing to man the presses, *the management said.*

The refusal was in response to a union call to impose sanc*tions during a national pay dis*pute with the Newspaper Society.

Mr Sidney Harris, the paper's NGA chapel father (branch chairman), declined to say how many people were taking part in the sit-in;

A statement issued on behalf of the newspaper management said: "*We* regard it as extremely serious that our building should have been broken into by unauthorized persons but we hope to maintain whatever service we can to readers of the paper, who have had to put up with no more than typewritten sheets for the past two weeks.

"The paper was being condemned to at least five weeks *non-publication during* the NGA's national campaign of sanctions, because local union members interpreted their instructions as meaning they could not run the press."

Picket deputation

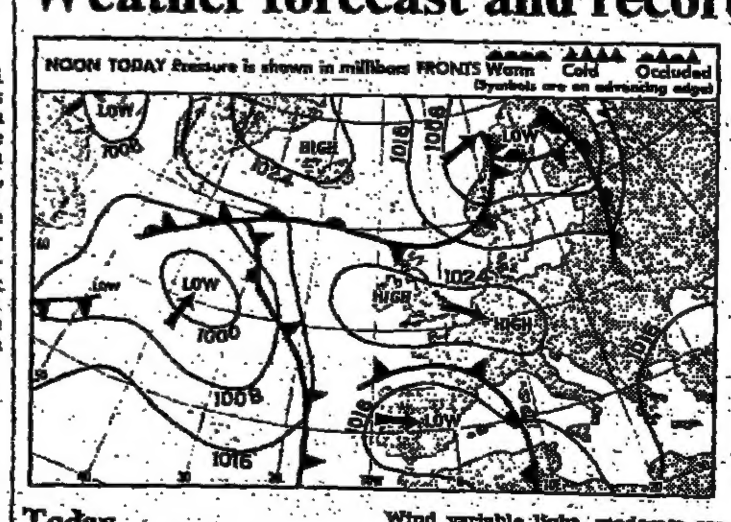
A *Tribune group deputation* is to see the Home Secretary tomorrow about the Shrewsbury picket sentences. They will press for details of the review he is to carry out.

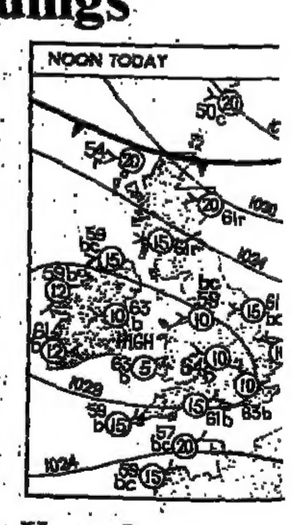
Fewer visitors to museums

Attendances at the 11 national museums and galleries in 1974, the year in which charges were introduced, were nearly 800,000 fewer than in 1973, Mr Hugh Jenkins, *minister responsible* for the arts, told MPs yesterday. The 1974 total was 10,992,142 compared with 11,763,539 in 1973.

The Conservative Government introduced museum charges on January 2, 1974. They were removed by Labour on March 29 that year.

Weather forecast and recordings





Today

Sun rises: 5.3 am Sun sets: 8.52 pm
Moon sets: 2.24 am Moon rises: 3.12 pm
Full Moon: May 25.
Lighting up: 9.22 pm to 4.31 am.
High water: London Bridge, 9.49 am, 6.6m (21.5ft); 10.13 pm, 6.4m (21.1ft). Avonmouth, 2.58 am, 11.2m (36.7ft); 3.46 pm, 11.3m (37.0ft). Dover, 7.14 am, 5.8m (19.0ft); 7.40 pm, 6.0m (19.7ft). *Hull*, 2.3 am, 6.1m (20.0ft); 2.16 pm, 6.4m (21.0ft). Liverpool, 7.17 am, 8.1m (26.7ft); 8.3 pm, 8.1m (26.6ft).

An anticyclone will remain over *S parts of the British Isles* but a weak trough of low pressure will *move slowly S over Scotland*.

Area forecasts:

London, Midlands, NW, central N England: Fog patches early, dry, sunny; wind variable light; max temp 19°C (66°F).

Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England: Fog patches early, dry, sunny; wind variable light; max temp 17°C (63°F).

East Anglia, E England: Fog patches early, dry, sunny periods; Wind variable light, moderate sea breeze later; max temp 19°C (66°F) cooler near coast.

SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands: Fog patches early, dry, sunny; wind E, light, moderate near coast; max temp 19°C (66°F) cooler near coast.

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, occasional rain, becoming brighter and mainly dry; wind W, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Borders, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Mainly dry, sunny intervals, becoming cloudy; wind variable light, becoming SW moderate; *max temp 17°C (63°F)*.

Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Argyll: Sunny intervals, becoming cloudy, outbreaks of rain later; wind SW light or moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland: Cloudy, occasional rain, becoming brighter, cooler; wind SW moderate; max temp 13°C (55°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Mainly dry, sunny intervals, some rain at first in NE England, rather cool in N and E, otherwise temp near normal.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max. 7 [am to] 7 pm, 19°C (66°F); min, [7 pm to] 7 am, 7°C (45°F). H[umidity,] 7 pm, 59 per cent. Rain, 2[4hr] to 7 pm, 0.01in. Sun, 24 h[r to] 7 pm, 10.9 hours. Bar, m[ean sea] level, 7 pm, 1,027.9 m[illibars,] steady.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

At the resorts

24 hours to 6 pm May 19

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max temp °C	°F	
E COAST					
Scarboro	14.0	—	18	64	Su[nny]
Bridlington	14.6	—	16	61	Su[nny]
Gorleston	12.0	—	13	55	Su[nny]
Clacton-n-S	12.3	—	12	54	Su[nny]
Margate	9.4	—	12	54	Sun[ny]
S COAST					
Hastings	9.8	—	14	57	Sun[ny]
Eastbourne	9.0	—	15	59	Sun[ny]
Brighton	10.1	—	17	63	Sun[ny]
Worthing	10.4	—	15	59	Sun[ny]
Bognor R	11.3	—	14	57	Sun[ny]
Southsea	11.2	—	14	57	Sun[ny]
Sandown	9.5	—	13	55	Sun[ny]
Bournemouth	10.3	—	14	57	Sun[ny]
Exmouth	3.4	—	14	57	Sun[ny]
Torquay	10.0	—	14	57	Sun[ny]
Falmouth	13.1	—	17	63	Sun[ny]
W COAST					
Morecambe	15.2	—	19	66	Sun[ny]
Blackpool	14.2	—	17	63	Sun[ny]
Ilfracombe	15.8	—	17	63	Sun[ny]
Newquay	14.0	—	18	64	Sun[ny]

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; th, thunder.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Algiers	c	20	68	Cologne	c	14	57	Lisbon	c	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nice	f	26	79
Amsterdam	s	13	55	Copenhagen	f	12	54	Locarno	s	25	77	Nicosia	s	23	73
Athens	f	26	79	Dublin	s	16	61	London	s	16	61	Oslo	s	18	64
Barcelona	c	20	68	Edinburgh	f	20	68	Luxembourg	f	17	63	Paris	f	16	61
Beirut	s	22	72	Florence	s	31	88	Madrid	c	14	57	Reykjavik	s	7	45
Belfast	f	18	64	Funchal	s	20	68	Majorca	c	20	68	Rome	s	26	79
Berlin	c	18	64	Geneva	f	24	75	Malaga	c	20	68	Ronaldsway	s	13	55
Biarritz	c	19	66	Gibraltar	f	18	64	Malta	s	24	75	Stockholm	s	20	68
Birmingham	s	17	63	Guernsey	c	12	54	Manchester	s	17	63	Tel Aviv	s	22	72
Bristol	s	17	63	Helsinki	f	21	70	Moscow	th	24	75	Venice	s	33	91
Brussels	c	11	52	Innsbruck	s	27	81	Munich	s	24	75	Vienna	s	24	75
Budapest	th	20	68	Istanbul	c	19	66	Naples	s	28	82	Warsaw	s	23	73
Cardiff	s	16	61	Jersey	f	18	64	New York	s	24	75	Zurich	s	24	75

Overseas selling prices

Austria, Sch 15; Belgium, BFr [..]; Denmark, Dkr 3.50; Finland, Fmk [..]; France, Frs 2.80; Germany, DM [..]; Greece, Dr 20; Holland, Dfl [..]; Italy, Lire 400; Luxembourg, Lf [..]; Madeira, Esc 15; Malta, 9c; Norway, Kr 4.00; Portugal, Esc 17.50; S[pain], Pes 35; Sweden, Skr 3.50; Switzerland, S fr 2.30; USA, Canada, $1.00.

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Labour peers oppose longer sitting

By Our Political Staff

Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords, has made it clear to the Govern*ment's business* managers that although there is likely to be severe congestion with government legislation in the Upper Chamber in June and July *Labour peers are not prepared* to sit longer into August than members in the Commons.

Opposition peers, led by Lord Carrington, are ready to give a *critical reception to* measures like the Industry Bill, but they have the impression that after *the EEC referendum on June 5* the Government's parliamentary programme will be drastically changed.

They expect that the measures *for the* nationalization of the shipbuilding and aircraft industries will be pre*sented for second* reading in the Commons but will then be shelved, if they are passed, until the next session of Parliament, opening in November.

There have been indications that Mr Wilson is prepared to amend the Industry Bill to take account of the views of the Confederation of British Industry, and *Conservative* peers, when they get the Bill, will be able to make their own *assessment*. Much *depends, in* their opinion, on the referendum result and what Mr Wilson does with Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry.

The first test of the Government's *determination* to stand by its proposed legislation will come on *the Policyholders'* Protection Bill, at its committee stage, beginning in the Lords *today*.

The Bill is designed to provide additional protection for policyholders *in the event of* business failures, but it has run into strong opposition from Labour and Conservative peers.

Labour peers want to ensure that *the* "guarantee fund" is not financed at the expense of policyholders, and Conservative peers believe that voluntary arrangements can be made by *the insurance industry* to safeguard policyholders' funds.

So far 97 amendments have been tabled, and there may be a coalition of Labour and Conservative peers *to defeat* some provisions. The general expectation is that the Govern*ment will be prepared* to amend the Bill in the light of views put by peers with a close interest in insurance, and that when it emerges from the Lords' the *Cabinet* will *decide whether* to proceed in the Commons.

Warning on need to save jobs in textile industry

Mr Peter Pendergast, president of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, which has nearly 73,000 members, said yesterday that *it would be foolish to* expect large pay rises in the next 12 months.

"To push too hard could send the industry over an abyss *that would* have far-reaching effects upon the people employed within the industry", he told the union's conference at Southport.

At the beginning of the year about three thousand members had been declared redundant, and the union would have to be careful how it extended its wage claims, he said.

It would be popular to say that the way was clear to seek *increases outside the social* contract, but that would be doing members the greatest disservice.

"It is wrong that, because certain industries are placed in a powerful economic situation, they use their strength to the *detriment of other industries*", Mr Pendergast said.

He said the union would seek increases to compensate for increases in cost of living, but added: "*Even* more important is to maintain as many jobs as possible."

Urging employers to face their responsibilities, Mr Pendergast deplored the reported action of some members of the Knitting Industries Federation in not honouring a general pay and threshold agreement.

"How pitiful it is to hear that some members have been harassed and pressurized into turning down the increase of £2.80 and the £1 threshold payment, due from the end of March. How can employers of the KIF expect the union to play the game with them if *certain of them resort to* tactics of this nature?"

He also warned employers not to resort to "cut-throat" prices while keeping wages low.

He alerted housewives to watch the quality of an increasing number of *knitted* imports. Many were now being sold at the same price as similar British goods.

"Many housewives are being 'conned' into believing that they are getting value for money, and the method of selling leaves much to be desired", he said.

Head given leave

Mr Donald McKay, Headmaster of Wanstead County School, Redbridge, east London, has been granted a year's leave on full pay while a new head is sought. Mr McKay recently left his wife to live with a former pupil aged 19.

Liberal support for flat rate pay rises

Continued from page 1

Liberal support: Mr John Pardoe, the Liberal Party's economic *spokesman*, said yesterday that Mr Jones's suggestion had the full support of the *Liberal* Party (our Political Editor writes). Speaking at Weybridge, Surrey, he *said*:

"MPs ought to set an example and refuse to accept *more than the* flat-rate increase when their salaries are reviewed in a few weeks' time. The flat-rate proposal would help the low-paid. The *question of en*forcement is crucial. We believe that the Liberal anti-inflation tax would still be the best means."

Any employer whose average wage and salary bill increased by more than the flat rate *would have to pay a surcharge* on his employees' national insurance contributions and deduct the surcharge from pay packets.

Electricians' view: The electrical union said Mr Jones's plan was worthy of serious consideration

"It would be wrong to ignore any positive suggestion aimed at helping the economy at this critical time", a statement said, but *the* Government should beware of enshrining a sectional interest as policy, it added.

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HOME NEWS

Steel job protesters give Mr Benn a mixed reception

By Martin Huckerby

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, was given a mixed reception by protesting steel workers in London yesterday when he told them he would do all he could to safeguard their interests.

More than a thousand steel workers, mainly from Scotland, had marched from Hyde Park Corner to the British Steel Corporation's headquarters in Grosvenor Place, Westminster, to protest about proposed closures and redundancies in the industry. Then they went to Central Hall, Westminster, where they gave Mr Benn an ovation when he came to the platform.

But when it became clear that he was offering no guarantee that every job would be protected, several dozen workers walked out of the hall. Others began shouting and heckling, and, although many stood and applauded when Mr Benn finished his speech, others stayed in their seats.

Mr Benn, flanked by more than a dozen Labour MPs, including Mr Eric Heffer and Mrs Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, said: "The steel workers elected the Labour Government in February of last year to look after the interests of the steel industry and those who are in it. As far as I am concerned, while I remain Secretary of State I will safeguard those interests as best I can."

He said he made no apologies for his concern about jobs in the steel industry, or the motor industry, or the shipbuilding industry. While he could not guarantee that each man would keep his job, he said: "We will not go back to the 1930s."

A nationalized industry should not make decisions affecting workers without serious consultations with those concerned. He had asked the steel corporation to negotiate with the trade unions, and the talks were taking place.

He had no ambition to run the steel corporation, he added, but it was wrong for nationalized industries to be run solely from the top.

After his speech some workers complained angrily of his failure to offer pledges of a total safeguard for jobs, but Mr Gordon Massie, chairman of the workers' Scottish action committee, said that he was very pleased by Mr Benn's statement. He said the hecklers "were expressing their anxiety without studying the statement".

Many of the workers did not attend the meeting with the MPs at Central Hall. Some went straight to the House of Commons to lobby MPs, but many others just wandered off. Only about five hundred heard Mr Benn and the other speakers.

Earlier, when the march, led by a pipe band, went to the steel corporation's headquarters a deputation went in to see TUC leaders taking part in the talks they were having with the corporation. Outside, the demonstrators walked past shouting: "Sack Monty" (Sir Monty Finniston, the corporation's chairman). A letter was also delivered to 10 Downing Street by a delegation of six workers.

Protests over archbishop at General Assembly

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that bastion of the Reformation, which opens in Edinburgh today, is to be addressed by a Roman Catholic archbishop for the first time. Although the thought received overwhelming approval at the assembly last year, the reality seems certain to provoke indignant protest.

The Rev James Matheson, Moderator-designate, does not believe rank-and-file church members will object to the address by the Archbishop of Glasgow, Mgr Thomas Winning, Roman Catholic observer at the assembly. But Pastor Jack Glass, head of the Twentieth Century Reformation Movement, and leaders of the Orange Lodge of Scotland have already voiced disapproval.

Ever since the Roman Catholic Church was allowed to have observers sitting mutely through the assembly, Pastor Glass and his followers have mounted banners of protest outside against ecumenism. "This year I have a ticket to get in", he said yesterday.

If he is allowed into the assembly for the address, Pastor Glass plans to stand while all others sit and bear a protest smock suitably inscribed with an anti-papist message.

Leaders of the Orange Lodge of Scotland said yesterday that they would display a thesis in St Giles's Cathedral as the assembly opened, saying that there could be no dialogue between the Roman Catholic and the reformed churches.

Two years to film 120 years of documents

By a Staff Reporter

The Civil Service Department today describes how 50 million pages of documents in the Companies Registration Office of the Department of Trade have been put on microfilm to make them more accessible.

An article in *Management Services in Government*, the department's journal, tells of the difficulty of public inspection of company records amounting to many millions of documents, with thousands being added daily.

After discussions with users, it was decided that microfilm presentation was the best alternative to the present system of getting the original files out of store.

When it became obvious that Companies House would run out of storage space and could not recruit and retain enough staff in London, it was decided that the main storage should move to Cardiff next year, and that a microfilm public reading room should remain in London.

Because the original files will not be available in London in case of damage to, or loss of the microfilm copies, a new copy is to be made for each inquirer, which he can take away. The Cardiff office will hold the library of original filled microfiche jackets. Primary copies will be at the London reading room and duplicators there will produce extra copies on demand. There will be a small public reading room at Cardiff.

A film unit started two years ago on the task of filming 50 million pages of documents from 630,000 company files. They hold a great variety of documents, covering 120 years, in different sizes and colours, in print, manuscript, typescript, rubber stamp imprints, and, more recently, computer printout, with many of the older documents creased, worn and faded.

The unit can produce a legible copy from almost any legible original, whether faded nineteenth-century copperplate handwriting on blue paper, typewritten third-carbon copy, or modern glossy brochure.

Mr P. Allwood, of the department's management services branch, the author of the article, writes: "We know of no other scheme of comparable size."

Labourer gets 'life'

Edward Coils, aged 36, a labourer, of Bedlington, was sentenced at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court yesterday to life imprisonment for murdering Allison Scott, aged nine, of Blyth, Northumberland.

The auditorium of the open-air theatre in Regent's Park, London, which will seat 1,187 when it is completed next month.

Five men jailed in Channel immigrants case

Five men who conspired to bring Asians into Britain illegally received jail sentences ranging from nine months to 3½ years at Gravesend Crown Court, Kent, yesterday.

Philip Noel Grist, aged 23, of Priory Drive, Littlestone, Isle of Wight(was jailed for two years; Valvin John Tattersall, aged 24, of Stringham Hill, Moseley, Birmingham, for 12 months; Joseph Farrugia, aged 27, of Helsto nGrove, Tysley, Birmingham, for nine months; Victor Savage, aged 31, of Steyene Road, Sea View, Isle of Wight, for two years; and Spyros Geoghiades, aged 38, of Selwyn Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, for 3½ years.

The court was told that after distress calls had been received at Dover coastguard station in January in a motor vessel was found adrift in the Channel. On board were Mr Grist, and 14 Asians.

Memoirs inquiry seeks evidence

The committee of Privy Councillors under the chairmanship of Lord Radcliffe which has been asked to consider the principles that should govern publication of memoirs by former ministers, has invited written evidence by the end of June (our Political Staff writes).

Memoranda should be sent to the committee secretary, 70 Whitehall, London, SW1.

Public fund payment urged for MPs' secretaries

By Penny Symon

Public funds should be made available to enable MPs to employ at least one full-time secretary, the minimum necessary for them adequately to represent constituents' interests, according to a Commons select committee recommendation.

The Select Committee on Assistance to Private Members said yesterday that it considered secretarial assistance important enough to devote its first report to that topic alone.

MPs' may now claim a number of allowances, including the cost of secretarial assistance up to an annual limit of £1,750. within that limit they may claim up to £550 for the expenses of employing a research assistant. In the last completed financial year, 73 per cent of MPs claimed the full secretarial allowance. Those who spend more than £1,750 on secretarial assistance, including research assistance, may claim tax relief on the additional amount.

The committee says it has no hesitation in asserting that public funds should be made available. It also believes that allowances for other secretarial or research assistance should be additional to their basic requirement.

The committee adds that it has received evidence to suggest that in other fields a competent and experienced secretary working in London may earn between £2,800 and £3,000.

A personal secretary, working for an assistant secretary in the Civil Service, earns about £2,400 to £3,100, plus proficiency payments, which may amount to £300. A senior personal secretary, working for a deputy secretary, earns about £2,900 to £3,600.

The committee proposes that the Fees Office should be empowered to pay to any secretary nominated by a member a wage not exceeding the salary payable at the time to a specified grade of personal secretary in the Civil Service.

For MPs not opting for that scheme, the committee believes that the allowance system should continue at a level compatible with comparable secretarial salary figures, with an element to cover the true cost of employing a full-time secretary.

"We are thus recommending not only that the secretarial allowance should rise to cover inflation but also that it should be increased in real terms in order that more adequate provision may be made for members to employ secretaries."

The Commons has already carried a motion to give £150,000 a year to opposition parties in Parliament, and the Houghton committee is considering whether taxpayers' money should be used to finance political party activities outside.

The Boyle review on MPs pay is expected to recommend an increase of about £2,000 a year.

Canned meat products 'that mislead shoppers'

From Our Correspondent
Walsall

Housewives are being misled into believing that they are buying good quality meat when they are in fact purchasing "second class cast-offs", a Council official said yesterday.

Manufacturers, some household names, are using chopped tough meat in pies and canned meat products with no mention on the label, Mr Roger Manley, trading standards officer to Warwickshire County Council, said.

Manufacturers, he said, might be committing an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, but it would be more effective to get them to amend the wording on the packaging. Reports of his county's campaign for that would go to a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food working party.

Saliva sample in rape case inquiries

All men in Cambridgeshire aged between 17 and 30 and 5ft 5in tall or under are to be asked by detectives hunting the Cambridge rapist to give a saliva sample. The decision follows the discovery of a new clue by Home Office scientists investigating the seventh and latest rape.

Det Supt Bernard Hotson, leading the hunt said yesterday: "This is the most encouraging clue we have come across in eight months of inquiries."

Our Medical Correspondent writes: Tests on saliva can determine an individual's blood group and other biochemical "fingerprints". If the police know the rapist's blood group—and that may be found from specimens of blood, saliva or semen—the results of mass testing could be used to narrow inquiries.

Boy aged seven started house fire

A boy aged seven started a house fire in which an invalid woman died at Hull last Saturday, Det Supt Ronald Sagar, deputy head of Humberside CID, said yesterday.

Pamela Rehman, aged 35, was trapped in her first-floor bedroom in a house in Coltman Street. Jacqueline Blake, aged 23, who was rescued by firemen, is in hospital with severe burns. Six children in the house escaped unhurt.

In brief

Pupil admits Harrow arson

Simon Rhodes, aged second cousin of the Quee caused £92,000 fire dam Harrow School, where he pupil, was conditionall charged for 12 months Central Criminal Court day. He pleaded guilty to

Mr Justice MacKenn told that two incidents in he had been attacked a terfered with had caused behavioural disturbance He had decided to era scene from his memory.

MoT fee rise plann

The Department o Environment is seeking on proposed increases of a quarter for roadworth fees. The fee would go u £1.64 to £2.04 for a c from 94p to £1.19 for a cycle.

Liberal choice

Mrs Elizabeth Shie teacher, of Westow, Yor has been selected as p tive parliamentary Liber didate for Derbyshire, east, a Conservative sea by Mr Peter Rost.

Cash boost 'urgen

A big cash boost is nee Britain's social services will collapse, the Society for Mentally capped Children said ye in its annual report.

M6 driver dies

Mr George Jones, age lorry driver, of Brook Solihull, was killed in vehicle multiple crash mist on the M6 at yesterday.

Canon retires at 9

Canon John Barrow 94, chapter clerk at Che Cathedral, who has been diocese since 1904, is to

Man accused kidnapping

Brian Anderton, age fish-and-chip shop pro of Bury New Road, Wh Manchester, charged w napping the daughter of winner, is to be questi connexion with other offences, magistrates a Greater Manchester, we yesterday. He was re in custody until Th charged with unlawfull ing and carrying away will and with der £100,000 with menaces. ing restrictions were lif

The girl is the daug Mr Denny Carr, of Pleasant Wal, Radcliff chester, who won £500 the football pools thre ago.

ommissioner chides Ir Benn on jobs nisunderstanding'

:oger Berthoud

Wedgwood Benn's attacks he European Commission based on a "massive mis- rstanding" of the way it ised the powers delegated by national governments, George Thomson, of the pean Commission, said rday.

: is a pity", Mr Thomson, mer Labour minister, said Britain in Europe press rence in London, "that g his period as Secretary ate for Industry he has able to spend only one n Brussels". He added:

had taken part in the long- sions in the Council of ters on regional policy he have seen that the commis- whole aim is to help weaker unity countries like Britain direct aid and, by establish- des of fair play on subsidies, otect them from a disastrous ly war which our stronger etitors would win.

ould also have seen that the unity's strategic political ons are taken by democratic ers answerable to demo- parliaments. Neither self- ament nor democracy is ened, although the forms hange and develop by agree- as the Community advances.

Thomson, who is the com- oner responsible for re- l policy, thought it aston- g that EEC membership d be blamed for loss of only two days after an mcement that grants and to Britain from Brussels totalled £719m, including £100m to modernize the steel industry. It was a ludicrous accusation that the EEC wanted to throw British steelworkers on the scrapheap and to veto new investments, he said.

Speaking on the same platform, Mr William Whitelaw, deputy Conservative leader, said Mr Benn had disregarded the views on the employment issue of those who run Britain's industries. He had stood the facts on their heads. Asked whether he was calling Mr Benn a liar, Mr Whitelaw gave an ambiguous answer ending with the word "Yes".

More absurd still, Mr Whitelaw said, was Mr Benn's argument that employment could be preserved only by Britain's withdrawal from the EEC.

If we cannot sell our goods effectively inside the Community and so maintain jobs in this country, how could Britain possibly hope to do so outside, facing tariff barriers?

Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, thought arguments that Britain's industry could not face competition were defeatist. The country was entitled to know whether the anti-Marketeers were advocating continued trade with Europe after withdrawal and wanted to get a free trade agreement, or whether they wanted a "siege economy".

He believed British exports must improve, both to Europe and the rest of the world. It would be a tough struggle, but much tougher outside the EEC.

unich parallel seen in ove as Britain 'slept'

Staff Reporter

part of the anti-EEC lt on the establishment, Get Britain Out movement -day launched a book ed *While Britain Slept: Selling of the Common et.*

s a highly critical account journalist, Mr Douglas , of how the Conservative Labour Parties, the Civil ce and assorted lobbyists ed the issue of Britain's

title's resemblance to of J. F. Kennedy's early *Why England Slept*, is ortuitous, as GBO's chair- Mr Christopher Frere- rubbed home at a press rence in London.

e same self-appointed ers of Britain's national est had been at work over EEC as at the time of Munich, he said. Among their aims was to promote the free flow of British capital to Europe. He thought it significant that two former senior civil servants who had played crucial roles, Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead and Lord Helsby, were now directors of the Midland Bank.

Mr Evans emphasizes the lack of public debate before the decision to seek membership, and at the subsequent elections.

But he also believed, he said yesterday, that the pursuit of membership was fundamentally inflationary, notably when Mr Heath created a boom between 1970 and 1973 by increasing the money supply by an average of 30 per cent, to enable industry to benefit from the "vast new home market waiting to be exploited".

While Britain Slept: The Selling of the Common Market, Gollancz, £2.

'Workless stunt a disgrace', MP says

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, said in Nottingham yesterday that he considered it "an absolute lie" for Mr Tony Benn to say that EEC membership had cost Britain 500,000 jobs.

"A stunt like this is a disgrace to those who take part in it", he said. "Our problems in the car industry have nothing to do with the Common Market. They have to do with quality, reliability, investment, delivery dates and management. To claim otherwise is a gross deception."

Mr Rippon, Conservative MP for Hexham, who as a minister negotiated Britain's entry, said at Nottingham: "Mr Benn's extraordinary allegation was a startling revelation about the damage from wildcat strikes. His figures of the fall in car exports show what happens when Britain fails to deliver the goods.

"He has condemned the failure for which he has a direct responsibility. How many more jobs does he think have been lost by our loss of potential exports to the rest of the world?"

The anti-Europeans gave the false impression that the bulk of Britain's trade deficit was with the EEC. Our non-oil trade gap with the EEC had increased far less than that with the Commonwealth and United States.

Mr Taverne, QC, former MP for Lincoln said at Northampton that Britain might soon need a huge loan.

"Without it we could face a slump on the scale of the 1930s. Yet why should foreigners lift a finger to help us if we break our treaty and kick them in the teeth?"

Mr Hooson, QC, MP for Montgomery, said at Stroud that Commonwealth countries had come to the conclusion that it was better for us and for them for Britain to stay in. "The alternative economic policy is therefore not open to us."

Mr Scott, MP for Kensington and Chelsea, said in Southwark that those who argued that leaving Europe would not affect British industry now had a resounding answer. *The Economist* Opinion Research Centre Survey, covering the whole span of British company opposition to withdrawal. Of large companies, 97 per cent were for staying in, as were 94 per cent of small ones.

Mr Steel, Liberal Chief Whip, said at Basingstoke: Br Benn's irresponsible allegations about levels of unemployment were unfounded and could create only fear and panic.

Mr Foot affirms link between EEC and unemployment

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday sought to contradict the "propaganda" of the pro-Europeanists that it was in the interest of young people that Britain should remain a member of the EEC.

At a press conference held in London by the National Referendum Campaign he said that one of the posters displayed by the pro-Marketeers referred to "jobs for the boys" in Europe. But one unemployed person in every three in Western Europe as a whole was aged under 25.

Comparing 1973 with 1974, he said, there had been an appalling increase in the numbers of unemployed in Europe; even worse, the increase in those unemployed under the age of 25 had increased on average by 49 per cent. In the United Kingdom it was about 30 per cent, although the comparison could not be made exactly. He continued:

I think our unemployment figures are quite bad enough, but they are not as bad as they are in Western Europe, particularly among the young, and I find it particularly offensive that we should have these posters put up in Britain about the opportunity of jobs "for the boys" in Western Europe.

One of the things anti-Market ministers were most concerned about, he said, was that Britain was importing unemployment from Western Europe.

It was true that the word recession was partly responsible for the increase in unemployment, but he agreed with Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, that the adverse balance of trade with the EEC countries was the biggest factor. The threat to steel jobs, Mr Foot said, arose solely from membership of the EEC. The measures required to protect those jobs could be gravely interfered with by EEC regulations.

We want to have much more direct intervention by the Government to ensure that we get investments in the right places . . . The claim of the pro-Marketeers that going into the Market would help our investment problem has been catastrophically disproved.

Mr Foot and Mrs Hart at yesterday's press conference against EEC entry.

Mrs Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, who also has steelworkers among her constituents in Lanark, reinforced the argument by saying that the United Kingdom steel industry was producing only 54 per cent of the steel demanded by British industry.

Today we are in a depression from which we hope there will be an upturn. Is it not crazy that we should not aim at producing the maximum amount of steel to give the maximum employment to our people and the maximum base to our own industrial development.

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said the United Kingdom was bamboozled into entering the EEC on the vision of the great trade bonanzas that would come within an enlarged market of 200 million people.

The facts have been the exact opposite. Our balance of trade deficit with the Community since entry has swung catastrophically against us. In manufacturing goods in 1970 we had a surplus of £465m, and that surplus has been turned into a deficit of over £600m.

The deficit on the balance of trade with the Six was running at an annual rate of £81m in chemicals, £65m in textiles, £205m in cars, £141m in machinery, £19m in other finished manufactures, and £426m in steel. But direct United Kingdom investment in EEC countries in chemicals between 1972 and 1973 rose from £16.4m to £82.8m; and European investments in chemicals in the United Kingdom fell from £9.2m to £3.9m.

Mrs Castle said liberalization of direct investment was by no means complete under the accession arrangements, but it was clear that the economic benefits had not arrived and the economic dangers had multiplied.

In a joint statement five ministers who dissented from the Government's decision to recommend continued membership of the EEC commented on the demonstration by steel workers in London yesterday. Mr Foot, Mrs Hart, Mrs Castle, Mr Benn and Mr John Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, said:

We warn again that British working people will not accept the redundancy and unemployment that is the price of Market membership. The first sign of the rejection of this philosophy comes with the rally of steelworkers in London today. Threatened with 20,000 redundancies while European steel is flooding into our ports, they have come to London to tell us that such a situation is unacceptable. The situation of the British steel industry is the situation of the whole of British manufacturing industry.

Last night the National Referendum campaign stated that the Shah of Iran's warning that oil prices would almost certainly be increased again later this year should be a warning to Britain about the dangers of staying in the EEC. There is no doubt that the bureaucrats in Brussels are now laying plans to control Britain's natural gas and oil supplies.

"Tribune" view: Reporting on their personal experience of the anti-Market campaign, *Tribune* group members at the Commons last night generally agreed that most constituency parties have been neutralized by local agreements to disagree. Consequently, such impact as is made by leaflets and brochures is attributable to the trade unions who have spent money in campaigning.

Membership is of benefit, coal board maintains

By Roger Vielvoye

The National Coal Board says that membership of the EEC has been of benefit to the industry in Britain and should aid its future development.

In a factual assessment of the impact of Community membership on the coal industry during the past two years, the board says that while it has been contributing to Community funds through a levy on coal production it has been receiving financial aid in excess of that.

The coal industry in Britain is the largest in the Community and nearly equal to the rest put together. The coal board said it had successfully pressed for an EEC coal policy that reversed the negative moves of previous years, and supported the expansion of production in Britain.

The principle of measures to safeguard coal markets has been adopted by the Community largely as a result of British efforts. That would enable governments to give financial aid for supplies to the electricity and steel industries during temporary falls in demand. It would also help in stocking coal, including finance to cope with market fluctuations, and give security of supply. Safeguards were provided on imports.

Britain, the assessment says, is also impressing on the commission the need for continuing financial help for high-cost coal-fields to ensure security of supply, including particular coal qualities.

The levy due on tonnage produced, which the board paid to the Community, was £2.3m in 1973 and £2.5m in 1974.

Grants from the Community are available towards the cost of benefits under existing British schemes to protect mineworkers from hardship through displacement and redundancy.

Powdered milk 'mountain' keeps growing

More than 100 tons a month of powdered skim milk is being added in Britain to an EEC "mountain" of almost 500,000 tons.

The board added that farmers could claim a subsidy of more than 8p a gallon for feeding their own livestock with skim milk produced in their own creameries.

'No' from small shopkeepers

The National Union of Small Shopkeepers rejected British membership of the EEC, Mr Thomas Lynch, the president, said at the association's annual conference at Buxton.

He said the Government might have to consider food rationing to prevent hoarding by wholesalers and shoppers if prices continued to rise.

Sectarian battle-cries in Ulster campaign

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

The campaign to woo Ulster's one million voters from their apathy towards the forthcoming referendum gathered momentum yesterday.

Launching the Northern Ireland branch of Get Britain Out, Mr Neil Oliver, the chairman, used the familiar "loyalist" battle-cry of "no surrender". His speech demonstrated clearly that the campaign in Ulster will have quite a different flavour from that in any other part of Britain.

"The convention election demonstrated that the majority of the Northern Ireland electorate will not tolerate power-sharing in executive government", he said. "How much less will they tolerate power-sharing and the future destiny of this province being surrendered to a foreign community.

Mr Oliver a failed loyalist candidate in the recent elections, said that no part of the United Kingdom had more to lose by continuing membership.

At another meeting in Belfast yesterday, Sir Christopher Soames, vice-president of the European Economic Commission said Ulster would lose investment to the Irish Republic if Britain left the Community.

Sir Christopher said he could not see why investors should want to put their money in a Northern Ireland outside Europe when by taking it across the border they could have access to a huge market.

Arguing that continued membership would contribute to the economic and political stability of Ulster, Sir Christopher disclosed that the question of whether an independent Northern Ireland could remain inside the EEC had never been considered b ythe Community.

WEST EUROPE

Bishop of Bilbao reports to the Vatican envoy in Madrid on the Basque country crisis

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, May 19

Mgr Antonio Añoveros, the Bishop of Bilbao, came to Madrid today to give a first-hand report to Mgr Luigi Dadaglio, the Papal Nuncio, on the wave of violence in the Basque country.

He arrived by car less than 24 hours after denouncing "violence on both sides" from the pulpit of the Santiago cathedral in Bilbao. He made the journey with Father Angel Ubieta, the Vicar General of his diocese.

Fifteen months ago both the bishop and the vicar general were under house arrest in Bilbao because of a pastoral letter in which Mgr Añoveros called for official recognition of the Basque cultural heritage, and the Government tried unsuccessfully to expel him from Spain.

While in Madrid, the Bilbao clergymen will attend a meeting, which begins tomorrow, of the Spanish Episcopal Council. This will "take the pulse of the current situation of the Spanish Catholic Church in relation to the burning issues in the life of the nation", a church spokesman said.

The problems of the Basque country, where political police have reportedly rounded up thousands in the past three weeks, are certain to be among those "burning issues".

Another area of conflict between the Church and the State became evident today when it was learnt that Mgr Infantes Florido, Bishop of the Canary Islands, will fly to Rome for a meeting with the Pope to discuss a Government ban on a Christian assembly in his diocese. The bishop did not mince words in publicly denouncing the Spanish authorities for violating the Concordat with the Vatican by prohibiting the assembly.

In another development today springing from the state of emergency recently decreed for the Basque provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa, Señor Miguel Angel Aguila, editor-in-chief of the Spanish national magazine *Posible*, was indicted in Madrid on political charges over an article he wrote about the emergency. He was released on £234 bail.

Spaniards never had a chance to read his article because all 65,000 copies of the magazine were confiscated by police before it reached the news stands.

It was also learnt today that hundreds of young men and women have fled the Basque country since the state of emergency was decreed, presumably to avoid persecution of those suspected of supporting home rule. Many have come to other parts of Spain, some have crossed into France illegally, and others have requested political asylum in France.

While doctors in a Bilbao hospital reported today that Father Eustasio Erquicia, the Basque priest who suffered serious kidney injuries while being interrogated by secret police a week ago, continued in grave condition, a Basque source said that police had beaten another Bilbao priest, Father Felix Iraurgui.

Earlier reports claimed that Father Iraurgui was attacked by unknown right-wing extremists, but the source said today he saw the injuries immediately after the priest's release on May 9 after four days in police custody.

"I saw his body, the still feverish marks—great black bruises—of the blows he received at the police station, all over his body, on his head, his chest, his stomach, his sides, his thighs, his arms", the Basque source affirmed.

Protest at seizure of Lisbon paper

From Jose Shercliff
Lisbon, May 19

A full assembly of Portugal's Armed Forces Movement (MFA) opened here today after a weekend of political confusion and economic troubles.

The MFA assembly has a full agenda, but the seizure of editorial control of the evening newspaper *Republica* today by communist printers will no doubt also be discussed.

High on the agenda is the disquieting economic situation in the country, with production, exports and gold reserves falling. An analysis of recent developments in Angola and their effect on the forthcoming decolonization of the territory will also be heard by the delegates.

The direction of the country's political evolution, the findings of a commission inquiring into the abortive March 11 military coup, and the internal affairs of the MFA and its future tasks will also be debated.

It has been clear since the elections that the MFA is deeply worried by the political situation in the country, and in particular by the Socialist electoral victory and the widening gulf between the Socialist and Communist parties. Since the MFA's recent institutionalization, its members have felt that it is for them, rather than for individual political parties, to guide the country. They feel that in order to do this they must go out and campaign more widely to enlighten and dynamize the people.

Lisbon, May 19.—Angered by the Communist seizure of *Republica*, the newspaper they own, Portugal's Socialists called for street demonstrations today to liberate it from hostile hands.

The move by Communist printers and janitors who locked up Dr Raul Rego, the editor, in his office, poses further problems to the MFA as it was the only Lisbon paper not under Communist editorial control.

The workers accused Dr Rego of publishing a Communist document that should have been kept secret.

Leaflets calling for an end of the "new censorship" and denouncing "the attacks on the information organs" were scattered in the streets.—AP and UPI.

Greece and Turkey set up machinery for consultations

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, May 19

Mr Dimitrios Bitsios, the Greek Foreign Minister, said today after a series of meetings in Rome with Mr Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, his Turkish opposite number, that machinery has been set in motion for consultations between their countries.

It might be said that such a result represented a substantial advance, considering that this was the first encounter at such a high level between the two countries since the outbreak of the present Cyprus troubles in August.

But in real terms, not much has been achieved beyond the prospect of further talks. The two Ministers will be meeting again at the end of this month in Brussels when their heads of government will also be present at the Nato conference.

There were four ministerial meetings here since Saturday, each lasting about an hour.

Two working groups were meanwhile discussing conflicts over oil exploration rights in the Aegean and bilateral questions of which the most important was Cyprus. The commission dealing with oil exploration rights apparently made little or no progress. It merely agreed on "the preliminary studies for a compromise text regarding the submission of the affair to the International Court at The Hague".

The ministerial dialogue covered all issues of direct interest between the two countries. They were conducted, according to statements from both sides, in an atmosphere of good will and in a common desire to remove differences.

It appears that little more than an exchange of views took place; but at least the talks were cordial; and the Ministers considered further discussions desirable. They have at least taken a first step.

Spanish troops braced for Sahara battle anniversary

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, May 19

The pace of the evacuation of dependants of the Spanish military from the Sahara appeared to quicken today as members of a United Nations fact-finding committee ended their one-week visit to the Spanish colony.

Spanish troops braced for possible action in connexion with tomorrow's second anniversary of the first battle between desert guerillas of the Libyan-backed Popular Front for Liberation of the Sahara (Polisario) and General Franco's troops.

Libya radio claimed that, in addition to a dozen Spanish officers and soldiers captured about a week ago, six more were taken prisoner last Friday night. There was no official confirmation of this. An unofficial report said Polisario was trying to exchange the Spanish soldiers for Sahara political prisoners in Spanish jails in the Sahara and the Canary Islands.

Rabat radio announced that Señor Jalihana Bachid, the secretary-general of the Spanish-backed Saharan political party Sahara National Union Party (PUNS) had switched loyalties from the party to the Forces of Saharan Liberation and Unity, which, the Moroccan radio neglected to mention, is armed and led by officers of King Hassan's army.

Señor Rachid claimed in the Moroccan capital that General Franco's government did not give the PUNS enough support. He defected after events of the past week amply demonstrated that the PUNS cannot compete with Polisario in bringing demonstrators into the streets, even though the PUNS is legal and Polisario is not.

Another aspect of the tense Sahara situation is a growing disagreement between Spanish military leaders and the Government about policy over the Sahara. Informed sources said many military men feel they are being "sold out" by Madrid.

Deposed ruler ill

Katmandu, May 19.—The deposed Chogyal (King) of Sikkim has been seriously ill for the past several days, the Nepalese newspaper *Everest* said today.

First 'national' newspaper in West Germany

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, May 19

West Germany acquired its first "national" newspaper today when *Die Welt*, formerly of Hamburg, produced its editions for tomorrow from Bonn for the first time.

In probably the largest removal operation in the history of the German press, the best-known component of the Axel Springer press empire has moved to the federal capital to be on the spot for political news.

At the same time, the printing operation has been rationalized. At what is described as a saving of several million marks, the federal editions will be printed in Essen. Only local sections will be printed in Hamburg and West Berlin, which previously printed the entire paper.

30,000 acres of Camargue to be protected

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, May 19

More than 30,000 acres of the Camargue, a flat region between the two arms of the Rhône, and one of the finest areas for wildlife in Southern France, have been designated as a zoological and botanical nature reserve.

All human activities judged a threat to nature will now be prohibited in this area. Camping and caravanning will be banned together with hunting and fishing. Economic activity in the protected area will be restricted to cattle raising.

OVERSEAS

Huge secret payments by Exxon alleged

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, May 19

A case is now being developed by United States Government officials that will show that undisclosed political contributions, running into many millions of dollars, have been made by the world's largest company, the Exxon Corporation, informed sources said.

The Exxon case will be by far the largest of this kind to date and a feature of it will be payments made to politicians by Exxon's subsidiary in Italy, the sources added. The investigations are being conducted by both the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Senate's subcommittee on multinational corporations.

An indication of the pressures now building up on Exxon was the statement late last week by the company's chairman, Mr J. W. Jamieson, that Exxon had made political contributions in both Italy and Canada. He did not disclose the size of these payments and maintained that they were perfectly legal in the countries in which they were made.

However, these contributions and possibly others of a similar nature, have never been disclosed by Exxon in the company's published balance sheets. This is one factor that deeply concerns the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Senate committee, meanwhile, is equally concerned about the moral issues involved in American companies making political payments, the pressures placed by foreign governments on these companies to make such payments, and the effect such payments have on American relations with foreign countries.

The sources noted that the State Department is deeply alarmed about these cases and their public disclosure, fearing that revelations of large payments to foreign governments by giant American companies will have a most serious impact on how the United States conducts foreign policy.

The Exxon case is the latest of a large series of cases involving political payments by companies. Investigators at the SEC and at the Senate committee on multinationals frankly admit that they fear that the disclosures that have been made so far by companies are just the tip of the iceberg.

Following information that came to light in the Watergate investigations last year, more than a dozen big American firms are now under investigations of one sort or another in regard to political payments

There is a strong belief that a large number of companies in the defence business may have paid bribes and made payments here and abroad to secure contracts.

The purpose of these advance payments, which under the terms of the contracts would have been illegal, could only have been to ensure the high profitability of the companies involved, at the cost of the taxpayers. The current investigations into companies could lead, the sources add, into investigations of illegal activities, here and abroad, within government bureaucracies.

A big problem in gathering information for developing the cases is that many of the companies involved used foreign agents, or subsidiary companies, in such places as the Bahamas, to make the cash transfers and so conceal the payments. To gather the full information needed in some cases demands cooperation between the United States Government and foreign governments.

Obtaining such cooperation, the sources said, is difficult because of a reluctance to cooperate by some foreign politicians, and by the fears and apprehensions of the State Department of just what impact these investigations will have on American foreign relations.

The disclosures made public here so far have stimulated investigations by governments in Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Italy and Honduras into the political activities of American companies in these countries.

Thai students burn an effigy of "Uncle Sam" in front of the American Embassy in Bangkok, in a protest over the use of bases in the Mayaguez operation.

Rising toll embarrasses Mr Ford

From Fred Emery
Washington, May 19

The gilt was today peeling off the success of the Mayaguez rescue operation as the White House was forced to protest that it was not hiding the bad news of the rising military casualty list.

President Ford was himself "puzzled", his spokesman said, over the delay in getting hard figures of American losses—which the Pentagon today still was unable to provide. Mr Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, declared that Mr Ford had now given new orders to the military to expedite its tally of the losses.

The possibility that some of the Marine force was left behind on Koh island has not been dispelled by ambiguous statements at the Pentagon.

Mr Joseph Laitin, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said: "We are pretty certain that no one was left on the island." At the same time, he statedt hat no American bodies had been recovered and "international discussions" were continuing.

Mr Laitin said the revised tally was 49 wounded in action, with five killed and 16 missing.

The Pentagon suggested today that the real problem was the dispersal of the force, both among Seventh Fleet ships and to different points in the Far East, including the return of some of the Marines to Thailand.

This is being taken with some disbelief, at least by American journalists seeing that the operation was completed five and a half days ago.

The Ford White House, which, understandably, is very sensitive to any tarnishing of its "open" image, was quick to deny every suggestion that there had been any lying, or "news management".

A further disclosure by Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, while on the way to Vienna yesterday, was that the United States had contemplated using B-52 bombers against Cambodia if the aircraft carrier Coral Sea had not managed, as it did, to come within range of targets in time. Dr Kissinger made the disclosure in a background aside to reporters on his airliner.

It followed a report in the Sunday newspapers in Washington that Dr Schlesinger, the Defence Secretary, was among others who had prevailed against members of the National Security Council who wanted to use B-52s. Dr Kissinger was not named as the B-52 advocate; but a news agency report said that the official on Dr Kissinger's aircraft said it was the Pentagon which recommended the B-52s.

The President himself continues to draw geopolitical consequences from his action. In a telephoned "speech" to a businessmen's conference in Bedford, New Hampshire, last night he said: "It proved what we have all said: America is strong, tolerant, cautious but firm. This is what America has to be in the days ahead."

In an address to graduates of the University of Pennsylvania yesterday, Mr Ford received applause, when he stated: "I am immensely proud of the Marines, the airmen and the seamen who rescued their captured countrymen and our merchant ship last week in the Gulf of Siam."

Moderate may replace rightists in Laos Cabinet

Vientiane, May 19.—The Laotian Cabinet, dominated by the Marxist Pathet Lao since the resignation of two right-wing ministers, met today to discuss replacements.

Laotian radio said the meeting also discussed he replacement of two right-wing deputy ministers who resigned.

The resignations have left the coalition Cabinet of Prince Souvanna Phouma, the neutralist Prime Minister, with three right-wing and two neutralists as well as five Pathet Lao.

There was no confirmation of names discussed at today's meeting; but diplomatic observers considered that the replacements were likely to come from the Vientiane side, in accordance with the 1973 ceasefire agreement, and that they would be moderates acceptable to the Pathet Lao.—Reuter.

Mounting crime wave causes concern in Saigon

Saigon, May 19.—Housebreaking and robberies are mounting rapidly in Saigon causing concern to the new communist authorities. The increase in crime has been related to the number of jobless former soldiers of the old regime and civilians who have not been paid since the banks were closed at the end of last month.

Motorized police have been joined by foot patrols moving about mainly at night to combat hooligans known as "cowboys".

There have been reports of summary executions of thieves. One eyewitness saw the body of a man, dressed in flashy clothes, lying in a street near the presidential palace.

Residents said that the man was a would-be robber caught by a patrol. He was led away and shots were heard. He was shot in the temple and had several leg wounds.

The lawlessness has prompted the authorities to reimpose a curfew from 11 pm to 4 am.

A left-wing Buddhist group which disappeared from the Saigon scene several years ago, reappeared yesterday urging all Buddhists to support "the socialist doctrines and policies of the Provisional Revolutionary Government".

The group's leader, Mrs Ha Thi Minh Dao, said that she was reentering politics because "our religion has a duty to protect peace for the Vietnamese people".

Saigon radio broadcast an order today, which forbids the public and troops to fire in the air or to use explosives during victory celebrations.

The eighty-fifth birthday of the late President Ho Chi Minh was celebrated in Saigon today with parades, firecrackers and a dragon dance in the grounds of the presidential palace.

Security forces banned the sale of wrist watches, radios and cameras in front of the central market in Saigon. Soldiers were ordered not to buy such items many of which had been looted.—Reuter and UPI.

£176,000 for car crash victim

Sydney, May 19.—A road accident victim, said by a judge to have taken to drinking and illtreating his wife and daughter since he was hit by a car, was today awarded damages of $301,000 (£176,000), a record for Australia.

Mr Justice Taylor said Mr James William Arkley, aged 51, suffered multiple injuries, which had made him a paraplegic, and pain, misery and frustration would be his lot until he died.—Reuter.

Sixty feared dead in crash

Delhi, May 2.—A packed express train ploughed into a truck on an unmanned level crossing in western India today, and first reports said about 60 people were feared killed, the Press Trust of India reported.

The agency quoted witnesses as saying mutilated bodies, mostly of women and children, were scattered around the railway track. All the dead were believed to have been members of a marriage party travelling in the truck.—Reuter.

General Amin threatens to destroy Tanzania

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, May 19

President Amin of Uganda today threatened to destroy Tanzania if President Nyerere succeeded in stopping the Organization of African Unity's summit from being held in Kampala in July.

He made this threat, according to Uganda radio, to a group of Ugandan and Tanzanian Army officers at Masaka, 80 miles west of Kampala, after he had toured the Tanzanian border on his way back from an official visit to Rwanda.

The radio said the Tanzanian officers had crossed into Uganda to meet the general. They told him President Nyerere was trying to ensure that the summit meeting did not take place in Kampala as scheduled. He was in communication with the British Government in this matter, they claimed.

They said some Tanzanian ministers, who they did not name, had asked them to tell General Amin about the plan and to assure him they did not support it.

General Amin said he had done everything possibly to achieve good understanding with Tanzania. But if President Nyerere did succeed in stopping the summit he would destroy Tanzania.

The threat is the most serious of a number made by the Ugandan leader, who has recenelyt received supersonic MiG21 fighters and missiles from the Soviet Union. The missiles were recently tested in manoeuvres along the Tanzanian border.

The strength of the Ugandan armed forces is considerably greater than those of Tanzania.

General Amin has made no secret of the importance he places on having the OAU summit in Kampala as planned. Under the normal procedure it would elect him as chairman of the OAU for the coming year.

A few days ago the OAU Secretary-General, Mr Eteki Mboumoua, visited Kampala and was assured by General Amin that all arrangements for the summit were well in hand.

Jamaica death sentences must stand

The death sentence passed in Jamaica on two young men must stand, although they were under 18 when they committed the murder for which they were sentenced, the Privy Council ruled in London yesterday.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decided that Eaton Baker and Paul Tyrell, now both aged 23, were not saved by provisions of the laws and constitution of Jamaica, where the death penalty is mandatory for murder but there is a statutory exception for offenders aged under 18.

The committee decided that the exception does not apply where the murderer is over 18 on the date of conviction even though he was under 18 at the date of the murder. Lord Salmon, dissenting, said the decision, in some circumstances, might lead to barbarous and absurd results.

Mr Baker and Mr Tyrell were convicted at Kingston in March, 1971, of murdering Reginald Tait, a prison officer, during a riot in November, 1969. Their appeals against the death sentence were dismissed by the Jamaican Court of Appeal in July, 1972.

Ship rescue led to 'very heavy combat'

Subic Bay, Philippines, [illegible] 19.—American Marines [illegible] into more resistance [illegible] expected when they landed Koh Tang island in the gul[f of] Siam last Thursday to [illegible] free the cargo ship Maya[guez] from the Khmer Rouge, [illegible] commander said here today

"There was consider[able] exchange of hand grena[des]. There was very heavy com[bat]. It was a classic helib[orne] assault in which unfortuna[tely] we encountered heavy [illegible] once on the ground", [Lieu]tenant-Colonel Randall Au[stin] said.

At a press conference at [the] American naval base here [he] said that three of his [illegible] died, some 71 of the 210 Marine force were woun[ded] many with minor injuries, another 13 were missing.

[In New York, Dr J[ames] Schlesinger, the Defence S[ecre]tary, put casualties for [the] whole air-sea operation to [free] the ship and 40 crew at [illegible] dead, 16 missing, and betw[een] 70 and 80 wounded.]

Colonel Austin estim[ated] there were about 25 casua[lties] among an estimated Cambo[dian] force of 150 on the island, [but] he said he had no exact [illegible] count.

The colonel said he did [not] want to play down the ca[sual]ties but he regarded the [oper]ation as a success. "We [were] able to land on the island [and] I like to believe that cert[ainly] it was part of the overall [illegible] and contributed to the re[lease] of the ship and the crew."

Major-General Ke[illegible] Houghton, commander of [the] Okinawa-based 3rd M[arine] Division, who was also at [the] press conference, told a [ques]tioner: "At the risk of s[ound]ing like a warmonger, I [think] it added an elixir to morale."

Colonel Austin said [the] Marines landed from [heli]copters at various point[s on] the five-mile-long island. [illegible] we met more resistance th[an I] personally expected." [The] engagements were so close "there were many ins[tances] when in fact the enemy t[hrew] hand grenades and our f[ellows] picked them up and t[hrew] them back".

At the press confe[rence] were two Marines in[jured] when two helicopters cra[shed] on the island. They [were] awarded Purple Heart m[edals] by General Houghton.

The Mayaguez today [was] heading for Hongkong [or] Singapore, where it arrive[d] Saturday after being fou[nd at] anchor at Koh Tang by raiding Marines, the crew [hav]ing been taken off. The [crew] were held by the K[hmer] Rouge for three-and-a-half [days] before being released in Thai fishing boats.

Captain Charles Miller, ship's master, has stated [his] belief that the crew would have been saved without American actions, although [he] said he managed to nego[tiate] their release by persuading [the] Khmer Rouge he was carr[ying] only general cargo and c[ould] tell the Americans to [stop] their military operation[s].—Reuter.

Hanoi leaders pledge union of Vietna[m]

Bangkok, May 19.—S[ome] of Hanoi's leaders said t[oday] that North and South Viet[nam] would be reunited as the [ulti]mate wish of President Ho [Chi] Minh, Hanoi radio reported.

Addressing a rally in [the] North Vietnamese capital, Pham Van Dong, the Pr[ime] Minister, quoted what he ca[lled] the last line of the late pr[esi]dent's testament: "My [ulti]mate will is that our pe[ople] consolidate to create [illegible] struggle for a peaceful, unif[ied] democratic and prosper[ous] Vietnam and properly con[tri]bute to the worldwide revo[lu]tion."

The rally was held in hon[our] of President Ho's birthday, [in] memory of the man consider[ed] the father of North Vietnam['s] independence from the Fren[ch] and the founder of the revo[lu]tionary movement in In[do]China.—AP.

India and Pakistan fail to agree on overflights

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, May 19

India and Pakistan failed today to reach an agreement on the resumption of overflights which were stopped in early 1970 when an Indian airliner was hijacked to Pakistan.

India's position was that Pakistan should withdraw its case before the International Civil Aviation Organization as a prelude to an agreement. But Pakistan did not accept this for fear of "adverse reaction" at home.

During the five-day discussions in Delhi, India relented and suggested that Pakistan should give a written assurance that it would not reactivate th[e] case without India's consen[t]. But Pakistan again refused.

One other subject discusse[d] was the nuclear explosion co[n]ducted in India last year. Th[e] Pakistan delegation proposed [a] meeting of India, Pakista[n], Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma an[d] Ceylon, to convert India's "un[i]lateral assurance" of usin[g] nuclear explosions for peacef[ul] purposes only into a "mult[i]lateral guarantee".

Pakistan also proposed tha[t] the littoral states should reac[h] a direct agreement on making the India Ocean a zone of peace. India agreed to consider the proposal.

Gunmen fire on religious march

Avellino, May 19.—Gunmen opened fire from a speeding car at a religious procession at Capriglia, southern Italy, early today, wounding six people with shotgun pellets. There was no apparent motive for the attack.

At the town of Avellino nearby and also in Bologna, northern Italy, petrol bombs were thrown into the offices of the Christian Democrat Party.—Reuter.

Nigerians held in inflation drive

Lagos, May 19.—Government price control officials have arrested scores of Nigerians dealing in scarce commodities in a renewed battle against inflation.

Among those arrested in various parts of the country for evading price controls were dealers in milk, beer, baby food, sugar and fuel.—Reuter.

nsion in West Bank increases Israel forces arrest Arabs in hunt for saboteurs

ic Marsden
n, May 19

nanhunt for two sabo- rael troops and police arrested 69 Arabs in of Jenin and sur- villiges in the north- of the occupied West hey are also said to ed weapons and sabo- ipment.

rrests, mostly carried aids on homes in the of the night, have in- tension in the West ich is in the grip of a small-scale terrorist

gh Palestinian guer- ganizations based in s and Beirut failed to t the attack expected ide with the anni- f Israel's statehood on there has been a proli- of minor acts f sabo- the past two weeks. have taken place in the Nablus-Jenin he north, in East Jeru- d in Bethlehem and

und-up in Jenin came urity investigations in- that Arabs in the area ked with a group of el Arabs who were in Nazareth last week cion of conspiracy to acts f sabotage. The spects are said to have to four different ter- oups.

today a home-made as found near one of m's main traffic inter- sections outside the walled city's New gate but was dis- mantled safely.

In the town of Acre, near the Lebanese border, an Israel Arab farm labourer was killed when a Dutch-made grenade went off in his hands while he was working on the roof of an agricultural school. Police are investigating whether the man, who had been sent to tar the roof, was on a terrorist mis- sion.

Inquiries are still being made into an explosion which injured 12 people at the Dead Sea beach of Ein Feshka, near Jericho, on Saturday, although most of the Arabs arrested have been released. Many were picnicking on the beach and some helped to evacuate the Israeli wounded, and give first aid.

The increasing involvement in subversive activities of Arabs living within Israel's 1948 borders is causing con- cern to the authorities. Police have disclosed that one of the suspects arrested last week in Nazareth is the deputy chair- man of a municipal council in Galilee.

In the West Bank, the wave of unrest and detentions coin- cides with friction between Jews and Arabs in several areas at a time when the Government is again trying to promote the idea of limited civil autonomy. The two lead- ing mayors—of Nablus in Samaria, and Hebron in Judea—have shown coolness to the proposal, and some others have refused to discuss it at all.

This can hardly surprize offi- cials. Arabs in Samaria have been angered by illegal settle- ment attempts by religious Jews near Nablus and Ramal- lah. There is aslo resentment in ramallah and neighbouring Alh-Birah over collective punishments such as refusal of trading permits to merchants

The mayors of both towns have cabled the West Bank military Governor to rescind these restrictions. Hebron's mayor, Shaikh Muhammad Ali Jaabari, who has in the past been regarded as concilliatory to Israel rule, has twice in the last week complained of provo- cation by Jewish settlers from the neighbouring estate of Kiryat Arba.

During the Jewish holiday of *Shavuot (Pentecost)*, he made an official protest after a scuf- fle at the Tomb of the *Patriarchs*.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Defence Minister, gave Shaikh Jaabari an *assurance that* order would be maintained in the mosque in future. Soon after this, the Hebron military Governor was called to the mayor's house after his daughter had reported that settlers on the way to prayers had entered his garden and made threats against him.

The Governor arrived with police but released the wor- shippers after they said that they were only resting on the mayor's fence.

South African assistance to Frelimo disclosed in continuing exchanges with Liberia

Mr Vorster seeks summit meeting with black presidents

By Leonard Buckley

The secret visit that Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, paid to Liberia in February was not the end of his efforts to establish a friendly relationship with President Tolbert.

Stephen Tolbert, brother of the President and himself Finance Minister of Liberia, *who was killed last month* in a flying accident, was a central figure in what happened after- wards. He gave me a record of the subsequent events, ask- ing me to regard it as confi- dential at the time.

Now, however, that he is dead, it seems fitting that the *record should be disclosed*, both for the glimpse it offers of the man Africa has lost and be- cause it gives the lie to any suggestion that Liberia was seeking its own ends in the contacts.

Representatives of South Africa first approached Presi- dent Tolbert last July when he was on a visit to Lesotho. They approached him again in New York in November.

President Tolbert made it plain that he could have no dealings with Mr Vorster until the South African Prime Minister was in dialogue with his own black leaders. When, however, he was assured that the dialogue had begun (the concessions to black South Africans on house ownership are one result of it) he agreed to receive Mr Vorster in Mon- rovia.

He invited Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu homeland, and *Mr Sam Nujoma, president* of the South-West Africa Peoples Organisation (Swapo) to *Liberia* beforehand so that he could be adequately briefed for the visit.

Stephen *Tolbert* was *made* responsible for the security of the visit itself. Steve, as he was always *known*, received Mr Vorster and his party at the airport, which he had ringed *with troops and closed to other* traffic, and he whisked them off to stay overnight at his *house in the country outside* Monrovia.

The South African guests *were entertained graciously*. Carmenia, Steve's wife, saw to it the next morning that Mr Vorster's *breakfast included* the pancakes he said he liked.

Steve, who found Mr Vorster *to be a man he could* respect, allowed himself just one ironical comment afterwards. *Mr Vorster had been delighted* to find a Bible in his bedroom and he remarked at breakfast *that he had been reading it.* That particular Bible, Steve re- membered, was bound in white leather. "*It ought*", he re- flected, "to have been black."

The actual exchanges be- *tween Mr Vorster and Presi-* dent Tolbert were reported in *The Times.* After the visit was over Steve came on holi- day to England, where he had a house in Surrey. He had arranged *to enter* a *London* clinic briefly for his annual medical check-up but apart *from that he just* wanted to relax. What in fact happened, however, is best told in the re-

The go-between: A moment of relaxation for the late Mr Stephen Tolbert.

port he sent to President Tolbert on March 1:

On Monday, February 24, I received a call from Ambassador Thomas in Geneva transmitting a *message* from Prime Minister Vorster expressing appreciation for courtesies shown during his visit to Monrovia. Ambassador Thomas also informed me that Ambassador Botha [Mr R. F. (Pik) Botha, South African chief *delegate* to the United Nations] had telephoned him requesting an opportunity to meet with me in London and asked whether he could give Mr Botha my telephone number.

I saw no harm in this and told *him he could.* About four o'clock that same afternoon I received a call from Ambassador Botha from South Africa. He requested an opportunity to meet with me in London to deliver a message from Prime Minister Vorster. I *explained to him that* I was scheduled to enter hospital on Tuesday, the 25th but would most probably be available by Saturday afternoon, March 1.

At four o'clock on Saturday, March 1, I received a telephone *call from Ambassador Botha from* London and I gave him an appointment to meet with me at "Sonnevanck" [Steve's house at Wentworth, Surrey] at five o'clock the same day, which appointment he kept.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries he informed me that he had been sent by Prime *Minister Vorster to me to express* personally the Prime Minister's appreciation for the warmth and understanding which he had received from President Tolbert and members of his Government during his recent visit to Liberia. *and that the Prime Minister* wanted the President to know that he considers the visit very historical, very significant and most fruitful. . . .

He also wanted the President to be informed that within a week after his return to South Africa the Nico Malan theatre complex in Cape Town, which is a $20m *entertainment complex, had been* opened to all races, and that steps are now being taken towards *achieving similar changes in* Johannesburg.

Prime Minister Vorster also wanted the President to know that he is asserting considerable pres- sure on Mr Ian Smith's Govern- ment to try to achieve a cessation *of the fighting in order* that his troops may be removed. The Prime Minister is also aware of President Tolbert's insistence on indepen- dence for South-West Africa and *is giving his fullest consideration* to this problem in the light of his discussion with President Tolbert in Monrovia.

Ambassador Botha explained fur- ther that Prime Minister Vorster had sent him to get President Tol- *bert's reaction and assistance in* the following matters:

1—In the light of his evaluation of President Tolbert's leadership role in black Africa, he is soliciting President Tolbert's assistance in arranging for Prime Minister *Vorster to meet with President* Kenyatta, President Mobutu, and General Gowon as an initial step.

2—As a second step, for President Tolbert to arrange for a group meeting of President Kenyatta, President Mobutu, General Gowon, *President Tolbert and Vorster any* place in Africa that would be con- venient and acceptable to the black African leaders. The purpose of the meeting would be to exchange views and consult together in the pursuit of solutions to the prob- lems of Southern Africa with the ultimate objective of achieving peace, unity and cooperation in *Africa—a solution that would be* acceptable to the black African leaders and to *Mr* Vorster.

Ambassador Botha made it clear that the Prime Minister is begging President Tolbert for his support and assistance in this matter as he *feels that President Tolbert is* genuinely interested in the welfare of Africa and is objective and *reasonable in his views. The Prime* Minister further feels that if the political problems in Southern Africa could be resolved the econo- mic potential of black Africa and Southern Africa could be achieved to the benefit of African nations.

Prime Minister Vorster wanted President Tolbert to be informed confidentially that he is in contact with Frelimo and is giving substan- tial assistance to them including large supplies of food because at the moment there seems to be a shortage as a result of disruptions by the Portuguese. He wants to assure you that he will continue *this support in order to prevent* any situation that could result in unrest.

He also wished that President Tolbert be informed that *officials* of the Government of the Central African Republic have visited South Africa and discussed *finan-* cial and other assistance, which is apparently being given favourable *consideration* by the South African Government; and that business- men and editors of major Nigerian newspapers were at the moment in South Africa having discussions *with South African Government* officials and private businessmen.

Ambassador Botha did not deny that these discussions were in con- nexion *with a deal being arranged* between Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and South Africa for the exchange of *oil for gold.*

Of course, the ambassador indicated further that Mr Vorster would be prepared to consider favourably economic cooperation between South Africa and Liberia that would inure to the benefit of *both countries. South Africa seems* particularly interested in landing rights in Liberia and is prepared to consider such specific develop- ment programmes as would be of interest to Liberia.

In closing, Ambassador Botha *explained that it was the desire of* Prime Minister Vorster to make a contribution to Rally Time [a fund for public projects] in Liberia, but he did not know how President Tolbert might react to this.

He informed me that Prime *Minister Vorster does not wish* that further contact be made through diplomatic channels but in a more direct manner. He has established such means of contact through New York and South Africa directly.

By March 7 Steve was in a position to inform Mr Botha by letter of President Tolbert's reaction.

I have reported the substance of our discussion to my principal and I am authorized to give you the following reaction:

"It is of special interest to me to learn that within a week after his return home the $20m Nico Malam theatre complex in Cape Town *was opened to all races* and that steps are now being taken to achieve similar changes in Johannesburg. I think, however, it is timely that other significant changes take place so that it might be observed that our efforts are achieving more meaningful results.

"Critics think that Mr Vorster *was using his old gimmick*, *but I* believe he is sincere; nevertheless, the more he acts to demonstrate his sincerity, the better it will be for both him and me.

"I shall appropriately do what- ever I can with regard to arrang- ing for the Prime *Minister* to meet with President Kenyatta, President Mobutu and General Gowon, respectively, as an initial step; but prior to such a meeting, I would require his doing some- *thing spectacularly positive* and concrete to show that he is exert- ing every effort within his power to convince Africa and the world of his sincerity in bringing a change to the unsatisfactory situation which now prevails in Southern Africa. . . .

"African leaders realize how intransigent the South African Government has been in the past and, accordingly, they now view Mr Vorster's action with great *scepticism.* This is the *reason* why I continue to insist that some meaningful change be evidenced before I take the *next* step.

"With reference to aid, I would like to say that for the time being we should carry out the Divine *injunction: 'First seek the King-* dom of Heaven and its righteous- ness and all things will be added . . . ' If by our efforts success is achieved in solving the difficult problems facing our brothers and sisters in Southern Africa, then *and only then will be prepared* to accept (legitimate benefits of mutual interest.

"Nevertheless, I thank Prime Minister Vorster for the offer, but you can make it clear that we are not interested in any material *assistance* at this time."

Steve sent another message to Mr Botha on March 7:

Please relay urgently the following message to your principal from my principal: "I have considered it timely to suggest to you urgently *that you use your good offices to* prevail upon Mr Ian Smith *not* to create barriers to solving the problems now confronting Zim- babwe. I refer to the recent arrest of the Rev Mr Sithole. As Bishop Muzorewa has clearly voiced, it appears to me that this act cannot but create stumbling blocks in the way of the ANC and the Rhodesian Government authorities in their genuine search for peace. . . .

"In view of our talks *in* Mon- rovia which I can always cherish, I am emboldened to approach you and request your intervention and to implore you to give your maxi- *mum contribution in removing* all barriers which are now being inter- posed in the path of just recon- ciliation in Zimbabwe."

Mr Vorster's reply to Presi- dent Tolbert was telephoned to Steve by Mr Botha on March 14:

I can assure you that I am doing my utmost to remove barriers to enable the parties in Rhodesia to resume meaningful negotiations and I have conveyed my own views at the highest level to the Rho- desian Government.

The message also quoted a statement to Parliament by the *South African Foreign Minister.* Steve transmitted the message to his brother and reported on *his telephone discussion* with Mr Botha:

In my conversation with Ambas- *sador Botha I reemphasized your* position that it is now their respon- sibility to take such action as would repair the serious damage done to your efforts as the result of the arrest of Mr Sithole.

He assured me that at the moment *the situation between* Vorster and Ian Smith is very criti- cal. Details of which he could not give over the telephone but that Prime Minister Vorster wanted to assure you that he will leave no stone unturned to remove this and other barriers

He realized fully the necessity for supporting action from them *in order to strengthen your own* position among other African leaders and assured further that maximum efforts will be made

This letter, starting "Dear Bro Willie", was Steve's final message from England before he returned to Liberia. He died on April 28.

lesinger ning barrasses Sadat

May 19.—The climate t month's American- summit was overcast y Dr James Schlesin- rning that force might *to break any new Arab* rgo.

an officials described ds of the American Secretary as tactless mely. The semi-official r *Al-Akhbar* head- s report: "America to the old tune of to force."

chlesinger's remarks likely to embarrass t Sadat, already under in the Arab world for faith in American medi- efforts in the *Middle*

vers said that the threat would increase In the Arab world the United States and President Sadat's task licate.

dat will meet President Salzburg, Austria, on and 2 and is expected hasize that the Arabs t tolerate indefinitely ent state of semi-peace ael.

has been no public on so far that the night reimpose an oil —which they enforced me of the 1973 Middle r—if there is no pro- owards a permanent nt.

he Arabs have said ly that they regard such argo as a legitimate weapon. They have d it with the American economic blockade of

ian officials were that Dr Schlesinger's came at a time when as been publicly coun- moderation towards *and encouraging* more elements in the Arab o move towards peace. *s not help*", one Egyp- icial said.—Reuter.

scus, May 19.—Mr *he Prime Minister* of paid a six-hour visit to is today and later *l to* Amman, Govern- urces said. The brief eviously unannounced, a four-hour meeting Mr Rifai and Presi- ssad.

lomatic source said the ere of a "political and nature and of a highly nt and secret type".—

Opposition parties in S Africa to merge

Cape Town, May 19

Two opposition parties in South Africa are to merge, opening the way for what may become a realignment of the white political forces in the Republic.

The merger is between the Progressive Party, which has *seven members of Parliament*, and the Reform Party, with five members who broke away *from the United Party*, the lar- gest opposition grouping, in February. The national exec- utives of both parties have approved the merger and it is expected to be ratified by both party congresses.

With the differences be- tween the ruling Nationalists and the *United Party* becoming increasingly indistinct, the new party is expected to be a rally- ing point for anti-apartheid opinion. After a decade in which it was represented in Parliament only by Mrs Helen Suzman, the Progressive Party won seven seats in last year's election, demonstrating that it could provide a viable Opposi- tion to the Nationalists.

The five Reform Party members were on the left wing of the United Party, and left it or were expelled after a lengthy battle with the tradi- tionalists.

Announcing the merger deci- sion, Mr Ray Swart, the nation- al chairman of the Progressive Party, said that he was "abso- lutely satisfied" that the agreement with the Reformists had involved no watering down of his party's principles. Mr Harry Schwarz, the Reformist leader, said that the merger would enable the creation of a "new political dimension in South Africa".

The new party's policy has not yet been stated but it is *understood to be unequivocally* against apartheid.

Taking into account the advanced state of the Govern- ment's African homeland policy, the new party will be committed to the view that while there should be a decen- tralization of power in favour *of self-governing states*, these states should be geographically whole and should not be racially exclusive.

If the merger is completed successfully it is likely to attract more defectors from the left wing of the United Party while the ruling Nationa- lists may attract defectors from the UP's right if the Government continues with cautious *reforms* which have been set in motion during the past six months.

Sir de Villiers Graaff, the leader of the United Party, poured scorn on the new party's prospects today. He urged those who had given the Reform Party their support to withdraw it before it dis- appeared "over the precipice hundred splinter parties since been the fate of more than a into the oblivion which has union".

Miner killed in S African colliery riot

Johannesburg, May 19.—One man was killed and 20 injured when African mineworkers *rioted last night* at a *colliery* at Witbank.

Colliery buses were stoned and a workers' hostel set on fire. The African who died was apparently suffocated by smoke.

About 100 Basotho miners were involved in the hour-long riot, a spokesman for the mine owners, Anglo American, said today. He could give no reason for the riot, there had been no inter-tribal clashes.

More than 130 miners have died through violence at South Africa's gold, coal and platinum mines over the past two years.—Reuter.

Tokyo anarchist case man dies while being questioned

Tokyo, May 19.—A 27-year-old man, one of eight alleged anarch- ists arrested today, died after collapsing while being ques- tioned, police said.

The arrests provided a start- ing point for further investiga- tions into a series of bomb attacks since last August, the police said. Five men and two women were arrested in Tokyo and another woman in Sendai, northern Japan. All were aged between 24 and 27.

Police said one of the men, Nodoka Saito, collapsed while being questioned and died after being taken to hospital.

The eight were arrested on suspicion of being connected with an explosion at the Re- search Institute on South Korean Economic Affairs on April 19.

The police have been investi- gating 10 other explosions, start- ing with a timebomb attack on the Mitsubishi heavy industries headquarters in Tokyo on August 30 last year in which eight people died and 288 were injured.

An organization calling itself variously "The East Asia Anti- Japan Armed Front", "Wolf", "Fang", or "Scorpion" has claimed responsibility for all but two of the explosions.

Other Japanese firms attacked have included the Mitsui com- pany and three leading construc- tion firms, one of which is build- ing a dam in northern Malaysia.

The April 19 explosion almost *coincided with* a blast at a metal manufacturing company in western Japan which exported to South Korea. *Both the com-* pany and the research institute received letters from the "East Asia Anti-Japanese Armed Front".—Reuter.

Correction

The caption of a photograph which appeared in *The Times* on May 14 incorrectly identified Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the Chinese First Deputy *Prime Minister*. He was standing on the left of the photograph, not in the centre, as stated.

lestinians pave the way to Geneva talks

aul Martin
May 19

leadership of the *Pales-* Liberation Organization s expected to take steps ek aimed at *paving* the or its entry into the East peace actions.

PLO has already accepted a of a Palestine state on st Bank and Gaza, but it pposition from militants e political price it would pay to achieve it.

new move, which is to be t a meeting of the PLO's Council, in Damascus, k to strengthen the hand Yassir Arafat and the ates in his movement. The to expand the Palestine l Council (PNC), a legis- *of 172 members*, increas- presentation from the ank and Gaza.

resent, *the proportion* of Bank and Gaza represen- in the Palestine National amounts to *only one* The other two thirds of ats are filled by Pales- in the Diaspora, who ore militant views. If the ates succeed in their the new council will ally be balanced.

such a legislature, Mr is confident that he can through his proposals to the Geneva conference ursue the aim of an in- *dependent Palestinian state*. He is counting on support from Palestinians who *have* been liv- ing under occupation, and the *support* he has received from this "vote" after the *Rabat* summit conference decision.

At its last meeting almost a year ago, the *PNC set up* the framework of Palestinian par- ticipation in peace moves and *the establishment of the Pales-* tinian national entity. The council was to have met again, but the meeting was *postponed* for fear of a widening of the split between the moderates and those who oppose any peace moves.

Now the present council has completed its three-year term. Mr Arafat intends to use this opportunity to inject the West Bankers and those from Gaza to swell the ranks of his suppor- ters. He also is able to point to growing pressure from the PLO's Arab and international allies *to take the necessary* de- cisions in preparation for the reconvening of the Geneva talks.

During his recent visit to the Soviet Union, Mr Arafat was urged to form a provisional revolutionary government. The Soviet leaders pointed out that this was a necessary step for PLO inclusion in the Geneva talks. They also promised im- mediate recognition

Similar advice has been com- ing from President Sadat of Egypt, who has expressed to PLO leaders his confidence that once this happened the United States would be willing to talk with the Palestinians. Last week, during a Palestine cele- bration in Tripoli, Mr Abdul Salaam Jalloud, the Libyan Prime Minister, declared in the presence of Mr Arafat that the PLO had come of age and must now establish a revolutionary government.

Mr Arafat and his colleagues so far have been reluctant to accomplish this because of the political dangers involved. They *maintain that they would have* to commit themselves on mat- ters of present and future aims, and what would be acceptable at Geneva would be political suicide in the camps where the guerrillas draw their most mili- tant support.

However, it is clear that the PLO is moving in this direction. It became obvious when Mr Arafat visited Moscow after the Russians had publicly declared their willingness to guarantee the state of Israel inside their borders before 1967. This prin- ciple having been established, *Mr Arafat then accepted* Soviet support for the creation of a Palestine state in the West Bank and Gaza.

During the Moscow visit, Mr Zuhair Mohsen, the head of the *PLO's military department*, de- fected from the delegation, de- claring that the Russians had made a great blunder in offer- ing to guarantee Israel's secu- rity.

More vociferous criticism of Mr Arafat and his delegation came from the radicals, who regard Geneva as a sell-out. None the less, the support won by Mr Arafat for the establish- ment of a PLO authority on the West Bank and Gaza, and for a full and equal *voice for it* at Geneva, has earned him a measure of praise.

The moderates also are con- cerned at the ambitions of King Husain, despite his acceptance of the Rabat decisions. During the King's recent visit to Wash- ington there was fear *among* the PLO leadership that he was on the verge of some sort of *deal with Israel which would* cut them out.

Thus, in making his case for a "courageous decision", Mr Arafat can point to the dangers involved in continued procras- tination. Like President Sadat, he will argue that it would be *reasonable to reject the unfurl-* ing of the Palestine flag on "one half, one centimetre" of Palestinian soil.

Fashion

by Prudence G

Above left, Doreen and Pe[…] in Perthshire. The conditi[…] under which they are force[…] must distract Doreen from […] more important work she […] be doing for the communit[…] is so anxious to serve. Above right, part of Doree[…] is covered with a birthmar[…]

Photographs […]

Face to face with the scar on the soul

"They build rehabilitation centres for drug addicts and they pay people to go around giving advice on contraception. Yet these are self applied abuses. There's no money, it seems, for research into the effects of disfigurement, though nobody asks to be born with a birthmark and nobody asks to get maimed in a car smash.

"The DHSS spends a fortune on seat-belt advertising, and telling mothers not to let their children play with matches, but what about care after the damage is done? The doctors cure the immediate hurt, but the secondary hurts, the hurts to the personality are not their concern—they're no one's concern because they're not terminal. The little girl cornered by the savage dog—her injuries are healed, but what about coming to terms with being ugly? Television has highlighted the increasing hazard of just such packs of wild dogs on housing estates, but who bothers about this child turning in upon herself or society because of how she looks?

"And the injuries can be terminal. Many suicides are caused by quite trivial disfigurements. Perhaps it is people who are absolutely grotesque make one huge adjustment—or go under—but to be just slightly different from the rest is terrible. You keep thinking, why me? And you feel inferior. Society makes you feel inferior, even if it is not so much how society reacts to you as how you feel it reacts to you.

"It's very hard not to sense an anti-reaction when most people's first visual fix is so important. Think of a court; if you look young and sweet and innocent you're more likely to get off than if you look dark and saturnine and have a scar. It's natural process. When a baby is born badly disfigured it is just as important to teach the parents how to cope with that disfigurement as it will be to teach the child how to cover it up, because the attitude of the parents will colour that child's whole environment. Of course, camouflage cosmetics are important because they mean that the mother can take the child out without fear that the neighbours will stare, or pity, or thinks she ill-treats the baby.

"Parents' reactions are crucial—we had one little boy who tried to shave off his birthmark because he knew how much it upset his mother. But camouflage is only Sunday Best Clothes, something you put on because it is understandable to want to conform to ideas of appearance in the world's eyes, but you have to be able to live with the fact of the disfigurement. One of the problems with the improvements in camouflage materials is that many people can really conceal their birthmarks or whatever. So now, instead of hiding behind the door, they hide behind their makeup, which is dangerous because even people who live with them do not understand how they feel inside because the marks are gone.

"It does seem strange that no one has costed the price to society of people who disrupt or reject that society because of a physical handicap. Yet we have found there are many case histories of adolescents, particularly—that is when appearance begins to matter so much—who are violent or disruptive because they feel themselves odd.

"Is it harder for a man than a woman to be disfigured now that women, with the Pill, have become so much more the chosers in physical relationships? Women have always had the advantage that it is accepted that they use all sorts of makeup anyway, but the attitude towards men wanting to improve their appearance has advanced. Just as it is now, at last, quite fashionable to admit that a lipstick can have a therapeutic effect on a neurotic woman. . . .

"One of the most important things for a person with a disfigurement is to meet someone else who is similarly hurt, and for their families to meet. They'll find they're needed by that other one. Being needed, as opposed to always needing, is tremendously important to self-confidence. We try to introduce families to each other.

Thus, much compressed and rudely translated, runs the philosophy which has kept Doreen Savage and her husband, Peter Trust, in work which has proved spectacularly unprofitable in the material sense, whatever its rewards to the spirit of these two dedicated people. After 12 years of struggling to reach across to people who are physically disfigured, not only by introducing them to new and quite original methods of actual camouflage but also by pioneer work in trying to bring such people to come to terms with their ugliness even when it is uncovered, after being dismissed as a mere beautician, after operating clinics in hospitals whose value the specialists recognize but which still go on a grace and favour basis, without status, home for the Trusts now consists of a seed-store in the process of conversion by themselves, without light, water or heat, and perched in a forest in Perthshire.

If it sounds romantic, believe me it is not. Even on a shiny May day, this is carrying self-sufficiency too far. But what is the alternative? Encouraged to found some official body which it might be easier for the myopic state system to pick out than a mere individual, the Trusts formed the Society of Skin Camouflage. Running it without help, writing, drawing and printing its monthly newsletter *Talkabout Camouflage*, which they see as a friend through the letterbox to all sorts of afflicted people but which from a circulation of 2,000 (remember postage and stationery costs) only boasts a quarter of that number of paid up subscribers, has demolished the small capital they inherited: I daresay it might well be argued that they are too idealistic to be provident, and that they regularly allow their enthusiasms to override their business efficiency. But then so too do most of the truly creative and original people I know; indeed, it is a criterion accepted in the textile trade that you get nowhere without management.

Should Doreen therefore join up with a drug house or a cosmetic manufacturer, both of which are now showing interest in what they see as a potentially profitable field—if the need for cosmetic camouflage becomes accepted it could be on prescription from the DHSS and customers could be spending £20 per month for ever.

But to be thus allied is, says Doreen, like having occupational therapists trained by the toymakers. What pioneers ever had any professional backing anyway? Physiotherapists and osteopaths were regarded as just as fringe once, and think of all the areas of alternative medicine, from acupuncture to Rolfing, which are now practised.

Meanwhile, the NHS dispenses tons and tons of expensive antidepressant pills to patients who, who knows, are concerned by the strawberry mark on their cheek. Dr David Owen, who appears to have been uncharacteristically out of sympathy with Doreen Trust's efforts has announced that from July women will be able to get free advice and contraceptives from most general practitioners. No cost to the nation was quoted in the report I saw for this service, which in any case ranks in my book with the efforts of the textile industry to impose restrictive quotas on competing imports rather than grasp the nettle of recession.

I should have thought it was a cliché nowadays that contraceptive propaganda reaches everyone except precisely those who should not under any circumstances be reproducing. In fact, Professor Mills's letter to *The Times* last week made the terrifying point that we are now as a nation so biologically insecure that we are not even replacing ourselves.

Of course the calls on state money are endless, but must it always be so unimaginatively deployed? Must intervention in the textile trade always take the form of cries for protection once the situation, due much to our own incompetence, has deteriorated to an almost j[…] level.

Mr Deakin, I think it was saying on television night that we should b[…] Range Rovers and Leyla[…] and tractors and high quali[…] and fashions abroad; and we should, but you do[…] creativity except with cre[…] motion. Must the healt[…] serve only the healthy man[…] medicine, never the entrep[…] fringe? Must it in oth[…] always be too little and […] never deal in prophylaxis […] course unqualified to ju[…] Trust on medical grounds human ones, the ones on much of health depends, to remember anyone mor[…]sive.

●Anyone interested in the camouflage work of Dore[…] Trust should write to […] telephone) at Wester Pitm[…] Auchtermuchty, Fife, Scot[…] please enclose a stamped envelope.

Would the rest of the world please note?

More talent from Scotland—Christopher McDonnell this time, who with that unerring instinct for getting out and doing something somewhere else which seems to characterize Scots, has seen his fashion business grow from a small boutique affair to a major manufacturing enterprise owned by a group, Haw Par, whose personnel were originally with Slater Walker.

Christopher McDonnell clothes are manufactured now by Mandarin Textiles in Hongkong; indeed, they have been used to spearhead the new quality concept of the colony, and since the London showing in April they have been touring the world.

The great strength in McDonnell styling is in day clothes which are both luxurious and casual, that sort of international look which on the whole the competition on the other side of the Channel does better. These two outfits, from the autumn range, illustrate this quality of the carefully careless art of putting things together, which, however time consuming, is still the basis of high fashion just now and are precisely the sort of high quality clothes which we could sell abroad . . . if only any[…] knew we made them.

Details of clothes available in August from: Christopher Mc[…]nell Showroom, 41-42 Eastcastle Street, London W1. Tel.: 637 3[…]

Photographs by Richard […]

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA AND BALLET

THEATRES

CINEMAS

ART EXHIBITIONS

CONCERTS

EXHIBITIONS

THE ARTS

Peter Cummins in Sunday Too Far Away

Never mind the charlatans, go for the quality

The most unnerving thing about the Cannes Festival is that it never changes. The dollar and the pound may fall daily; film industries may fade away, but the same caravanserai of fakes and charlatans still assembles: the same people still pretending to be stars, columnists, critics, directors, big movie producers, wives or nephews. Bronzed and scented, they cluster on the Carlton *terrasse* and feed one another's bizarre fantasies of the productions they will package (how about a musical version of *Bonnie and Clyde*, with Robert Redford and Streisand, of course, and maybe John Schlesinger to direct—or Buñuel or Antonioni; or *Kung Fu Godfather* ?).

Somehow, despite all the fakes and freeloaders and hangers-on, films do still get made, and most of them turn up in Cannes. The problem is where to start among the several hundred that still remain when you have eliminated *Linda Lovelace for President* and *Girls for Rent*.

So far it has been a notably encouraging festival, with more to see and like than any festival anywhere has produced for perhaps a decade. So far the major events of the competition have been Miklos Jancsó's dazzling *Electra*, which I have already written about at length from Budapest; and Michelangelo Antonioni's *The Passenger*, which like Martin Scorsese's *Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More* will be opening in London in the course of the next few weeks.

For the moment it is enough to say that *The Passenger* shows Antonioni's brilliance only enhanced after four years' absence. The alternative title, *Profession: Reporter*, is better. Jack Nicholson plays a top-rank foreign correspondent with all the newsman's hang-ups about the compulsion to excellence and the evanescence of his creation. Choosing to disappear from his job and his family ties, he adopts the identity of a stranger whom he encounters—and then finds dead—in a turbulent African country. Soon he finds himself a fugitive both from the dead man's enemies and his own friends. In Antonioni's hands an adventure story acquires layers of ambiguity and a visual and cinematic mesmerism.

Werner Herzog continues to pursue his disenchanted exploration of human kind as it appears to the abnormal and deprived—the dwarfs of *Even Dwarfs Started Small* or the blind deaf-mute woman in *Land of Silence and Darkness*. *Each for himself and God Against All, or, The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* recounts and interprets the real-life case of a boy who appeared in the streets of Nuremburg in 1828, dirty and almost without speech, who later explained that he had been imprisoned since childhood in a dark cellar, with no kind of contact with the world or people. He lived for five years as the pet and curiosity of the town, learnt to speak, write and comprehend music, and then was mysteriously murdered, leaving the enigma of his origins unsolved.

Herzog shows the disconcerting effect upon a bourgeois society of this pure being, a creature suddenly born into full manhood, with his inability to accept the conventions, the beliefs and the logic of his new surroundings. Herzog's Kaspar and his sufferings have a devastating reality. To play him the director found a man (actually 43, but without any features that indicate a real age different from Kaspar's 17 years) permanently scarred by society after a life spent in mental institutions after being orphaned by his prostitute mother in infancy.

Herzog is the cinema's holy fool; and his films are realized visions rather than stories. As in *Aguirre the Wrath of God*, the film begins with a long roller title reciting the facts of the real Kaspar's career; but the more important part is the hand-in-hand entry of Herzog and his actor (identified as Bruno S.) into the fabric of dreams and sensations that was Kaspar's life among men.

The film is dedicated to Lotte Eisner, the biographer of F. W. Murnau; and the final scene is worthy of Murnau himself. Kaspar and the threat he represents to self-content are dead. The citizens of Nuremburg order an autopsy; and the doctors find minute peculiarities of the liver and brain. Exultantly the little notary carries off the comforting news that the disconcerting Kaspar was truly abnormal; and as he slowly vanishes from view up the vista of the medieval street we recognize that his body is twisted; he might himself be a monster from *Nosferatu*.

The entry from the other, Eastern Germany, is an adaptation, directed by Egon Günther, of Thomas Mann's *Lotte in Weimar*, the story of how Werther's adored Lotte, 40 years on and widowed, thrills the populace of Weimar by deciding to visit the love of her youth. Instead of the romantic young poet, however, she finds a pompous old literary monument. (The incident is based on fact, and an entry in Goethe's diary: "Could not the old woman have spared me this?").

The bitter little comedy is played with an elegance which recalls the era of Willy Forst operettas; and Lili Palmer's fragile, nervous Lotte is exquisite; but the elegance is betrayed by singularly graceless shooting. It is as if a brilliant stage director and a shockingly insensitive cameraman were linked in one personality.

You never can tell in advance at a festival. An Australian film about sheep-shearers did not sound all that promising; but *Sunday Too Far Away* can be reckoned among the best films so far in the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs. The director, Ken Hannam, worked for years in British television, on *Dr Finlay*, *Z-Cars*, *Colditz*, *Thirty-minute Theatre* and the rest; but he has recovered triumphantly from the experience. You sense in his work an admiration for Ford and Hawks, and there's a Fordian quality in the ability to perceive a sort of grandeur in people of the most limited horizons and spirits.

The title is from a song, the complaint of a shearer's loveless wife: "Friday he's too tired, Saturday too drunk, and Sunday too far away"—far away in bleak barracks on God-forsaken desert farms, sweating over the money-hungry job of contract shearing. They are hard and mean and competitive men, merciless to misfits who do not conform to the rituals of work and booze. "If we dare to question the elitism which is theirs by divine right of legend, we do so with affection and pride", says the director. At the end their legend and code of comradeship are tested by a strike; and a few brief, elliptical scenes trace the human issues of a strike a lot deeper than most of the earnest, left-wing *ciné-vérité* reportages of industrial dispute to which we are still subjected.

A major revelation has been the 230-minute Greek film *O Thiassos*, whose present English title *Journey of the Cast* would probably be better rendered as *Actors on Tour*. The director, Theodor Angelopoulos, is already known from *Reconstruction* (1970) and *Days of 36* (1972), but he has come a long way since those films.

His new film is a modern Odyssey. From 1939 to 1952 his sad little troupe of strolling players travels from place to place, but they seem never able to finish their appalling little play, *Golfo the Shepherdess*, on account of the violent interruptions of history. The relationship of the players, who mirror in their private concerns the passing events from the war to the dictatorship of Marshal Papagos, re-create the Atrides myth.

Angelopoulos works more in atmospheres than exposition. His *O Thiassos* (which seems certain to be shown at the London Film Festival) creates its drama and dynamism more from the apprehension of empty streets and noises in the night than from dialogue.

The Critics' Week, which last year introduced *A Bigger Splash*, has this year included, exceptionally, two British films: Philippe Mora's *Brother Can You Spare a Dime?* and David I. Munro's screen version of R. D. Laing's *Knots*—both seen already on British television, albeit, in the case of *Knots*, in a truncated form. I missed the Belgian fable *Vase de Noces*, about a man who fathers a family on an old sow, and evinces less appealing habits outside the social conventions, which seems to have sent most of my colleagues reeling.

Also in the Critics' Week, Joan Micklin Silver's *Hester Street* is a feeling account of the situation of turn-of-the-century immigrants in New York, with images that re-create the world of H. G. Hine photographs. Only the conclusions of the film, which seem to favour those immigrants who settle for a racist and feminist solution of their situation (staying in the ghetto and perpetuating a Jewish matriarchal system) are questionable.

The second week of the festival promises new films by Bergman, Bondarchuk, Fassbinder, Terayama (whose weird and brilliant *Pastoral Hide and Seek* has already been shown), Losey, and John Schlesinger's long-awaited *Day of the Locust*.

David Robinson

Kenneth Martin after the forgotten years

Kenneth Martin was 70 last month and the retrospective exhibition now at the Tate covers the last 25 years of his working life. A quick calculation will show that nothing is included which Martin did before his mid-forties. As Anthony Hill points out in the volume of tributes published along with the catalogue: "*Kenneth Martin 1928-48* seems an unobtainable book". Through the Thirties and Forties Martin was working in a representational style. He turned to abstraction at a time when it was probably more difficult to do so in Britain than at any time during the last 50 years. For it was the post-war England of stormy romanticism and Samuel Palmer pastiche where abstraction was regarded as either coldly cerebral or naively utopian (or a combination of the two). Of this period Martin has said: "Before I became an abstract painter I went to a lecture by Kenneth Clark. He showed on the screen a work by Mondrian, and he said: 'This was one of his more complicated efforts'. The ladies tittered. But it had a profound effect on me then, seeing it."

In his catalogue essay, Andrew Forge says that Martin was an anachronistic pioneer in British abstract art, implying that he was rediscovering what had been done decades earlier abroad. This is only a half truth. Martin did produce an abstract art of a rigour comparable to that of the De Stijl group in Holland around 1920—a rigour that had not been matched in Britain, even by Nicholson during the few years in the Thirties when artists here began to work in a geometric abstract style. But Martin also introduced a quality into his work which made it new and not just local pioneering. Whereas many post-war artists working on the Continent with neo-De Stijl aesthetics were merely refurbishing and refining something second-hand, lacking the tough force of the original, this was not the case with Kenneth Martin and his wife Mary Martin, a considerable artist in her own right who shared his struggle until her death in 1969.

Martin first worked as a painter, and his earliest abstract works were paintings. Although he never gave up painting, in the late Fifties and early Sixties he devoted most of his time to making three-dimensional sculptural or constructed works and a long series of hanging mobiles. These had little to do with those fashionable kitsch objects of the Fifties which used to be seen suspended from the ceiling of every student bed-sitter. They were, and are, works of structural beauty in which the mathematics of movement and progression are worked out with precision and quiet virtuosity.

Martin was born in 1905 in Sheffield, a city with a tradition of craftsmanship and small workshop practice in metal. His way of working with metal (usually brass rather than steel) is reminiscent of the methods of the old master cutlers, although he himself rejects such an ascription of influence or similarity. Maybe he is right to reject it, suggesting as it does too local an inspiration, whereas what he has always striven for during his mature working years is a universality.

His constructions and mobiles are perfect of their kind. Yet the medium has its restrictions and limitations. Which is why, one imagines, he has increasingly turned back to painting and drawing since 1969. For Martin is more concerned with process than object, with the journey than the arrival. The possibilities of movement within a mobile or his transformable constructed works is an attempt to convey this. But paradoxically process can often be better displayed by the illusion of movement in a painting or by the metamorphosis demonstrated in a series of pictures or drawings, and this is what Martin has been able to do superbly in his recent work.

He has been occupied over the past six years with a long series of drawings, paintings and prints entitled *Chance and Order*. Sheaves of lines are built up by random procedures within the matrix or format of a square. This is the basis for the series of 20 or so paintings. Themal variations are worked out in colour with all the calm control combined with imaginative leaps of a toccata and fugue. Most of Martin's new paintings are in a single colour, rich paint brushed into a dense, creamy white background. And rigorous and precise as are Martin's methods of choice and form-making, the paint is applied intuitively and with feeling, very decidedly "by hand", like the performer's contribution in music. The combination of these two different, almost opposed methods of working is one of the reasons for their extraordinary fascination and power. Martin's *Chance and Order* pictures seem to me to be the best abstract paintings produced in Britain since the war and the equal of anything done either in Europe or America. They have the excitement and fresh youthfulness of vision which often comes only to artists in old age.

Derek Boshier first became known as a painter in the early Sixties, along with a generation of artists who had studied at the Royal College of Art which included David Hockney and Allen Jones. But rather than repeat himself, Boshier gave up painting and has been working in a number of ways using photography and drawing in series of works. He has said: "I've found that all along the line I've always stopped when I feel I begin to know how to do it. Maybe the work has suffered because it hasn't reached a standard; but for me it has always been the ideu that's been important." The work has not suffered but got better. It is challenging and inquiring, whereas so many of his contemporaries are selling themselves short. Until the end of the month the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester is showing Boshier's work of the past three or four years. From *16 Situations* where he made photomontages of a minimal modern sculpture in various congruous or incongruous situations; *54 Drawings* where he has used part of a drawing made in 1962 and thought how he would proceed with it after a lapse of 11 years; *Change*, which consists of 200 consecutive small works, a witty and provocative metamborphosis of images by means of photography, xerography, drawing and painting; and *Two (about duality)* where pairs of images or complexes of images are set against one another. All these works show a lively awareness of the rarefied position which contemporary art occupies and the need to try to relate it to the world outside.

The catalogue contains a long article by Boshier which is a very impressive analysis of the present state of art and the artist's divorce from a real public. His most recent works, several series of colour photographs made in England and America with an observant eye and a critical intelligence, are now on show at the Angela Flowers Gallery in London until June 4.

Paul Overy

LSO/Previn
Festival Hall

Stephen Walsh

If André Previn stands for a tradition in conducting Vaughan Williams, it certainly is a tradition quite different from the orthodox English view of the composer as a mystic and a visionary. The fifth symphony, which Previn conducted on Sunday, has come down to us in Boult's reading as the expression of an almost monastic detachment from its physical, wartime environment. Previn, by contrast, insists on a definite quality of personal yearning.

It comes hard to admit that Previn is probably justified in his approach. Naturally one prefers to think of the great English musical patriarch as having been incapable of wallowing in anything as crude, not to say foreign, as emotion. But the fifth symphony, with all its beauties, does lend itself to sentimentalizing in much the same way as the sturdy hymn tunes with which Victorian England braced itself for each new week of hypocrisy. Its piety protests just a fraction too much. And it's scant comfort that, when the veil is lifted, the work seems perceptibly less cogent and less rigorous.

The cornerstones of Boult's reading have always been brisk tempi and a spare texture. Previn gave us slow tempi and a saturated orchestral sound, with ravishing string playing from the LSO. The music took on a distinct Hollywood sheen, while still managing to sound a hundred times better than the heavy Vaughan Williams pastiche which used to be *de rigueur* in Biblical epics. It sounded, indeed, several hundred times better than Miklos Rozsa's *Tripartita* earlier in the concert, which might politely be described as honorary film music since Rozsa spends most of his time writing the professional variety. Rozsa, however, is too downy a bird not to have noticed that mimicry of Vaughan Williams has shot its bolt and that Bartok, Stravinsky and Shostakovich are now the smart models for the composer in celluloid. The result, in concert, has a certain ironic piquancy, but not much else.

SPORT

Tennis

Proisy has Orantes living on his nerves for three hours

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Manuel Orantes took three hours to beat Patrick Proisy, 6—3, 4—6, 6—2, 7—5 in the men's singles final of the British hard court tennis championships, sponsored by Coca-Cola at Bournemouth yesterday. This is the first British tournament Orantes has won since the 1967 junior invitation event at Wimbledon and his success was as precarious as the score suggests.

Three times Proisy was within two points of taking the match into a fifth set. In the last game, the weary Orantes was eager to finish the job. But he needed four match points before the unexpected bonus of a centre line ace gave him the title he wanted and the relief he needed.

"See how hard I worked", said Proisy in the dressing room, holding up a shoe with raw edged holes in the upper. "I made so many rallies with him. I was very tired at the beginning of the third set. I couldn't run any more. In the fourth I was feeling better and he also was feeling tired. If I had won the fourth . . ." but he had the consolation of knowing that, after two years of relative obscurity, he had regained the form and confidence that took him to the 1972 French final.

Orantes was runner-up in Paris last year and yesterday the pair of them joyously reminded us of the kind of tennis a man must play to reach the final of the game's greatest clay court festival.

True, they produced little that was spectacularly aggressive. But their tennis had a beauty and charm that matched the perfection of a brightly warm afternoon. Both made an immense physical and mental effort, seldom relaxing the constructive intensity of their labours. They teased each other with shrewd, nagging variations designed to induce error or open up the court for a winner. They drew each other to and fro in long rallies in which each had to remain alert for a sudden shift in pace, length or angle. They had some delightful lateral exchanges at the net.

Orantes had the heaviest shot, his forehand. But Proisy pestered him with lobs and the Spaniard, used to yellow balls rather than white ones, had to be careful overhead. Orantes also had the most subtle shot, his backhand drop. But the darkly impassive Proisy anticipated it better and better as the match went on. All the time Proisy's mind was clicking away like a computer finding the right answers. He lulled Orantes into caution by working on his backhand, then changed the point of pressure. He swept to the net just often enough to keep Orantes guessing. He did his utmost to outwit a slightly better player. Proisy's scrambling was arduously tenacious, his lobs an enduring snag to Orantes's efforts to assert any authority.

A run of six successive games put Orantes on top. But from 1—3 down in the second set Proisy won six games out of seven. Then Orantes had a run of eight out of nine. After three sets both wanted but were denied the interval granted on mainland Europe. Proisy changed his shirt, poured water over his head, and gallantly fought his way to the climax of an utterly absorbing match. Proisy's morale needed success. But Orantes was the more accustomed to winning.

Results in the Rothmans hard court tennis tournament at Guildford yesterday were:

MEN'S SINGLES: First round: G. Braun (Australia) beat J. B. Howarth (Australia), 4—6, 6—1, 10—8; C. P. Kachel (Australia) beat R. C. Beven (Australia), 6—3, 6—1; R. Steele (South Africa) beat S. Suresh (Ceylon), 4—6, 6—4, 6—1; E. D. McCabe (Australia) beat R. D. Green, 6—2, 6—2; A. G. Fawcett (South Africa) beat G. Kulis (Canada), 7—5, 6—0; J. Holladay (US) beat J. D. Mills (New Zealand), 6—1, 3—6, 6—2; P. Pospisil (Canada) beat G. A. Oliver (New Zealand), 6—1, 6—3; G. Silberman (South Africa) beat J. C. Cooler, 6—0, 3—6, 7—5; G. N. Pollard (Australia) beat M. S. Wilson, 6—4, 1—0 (retd); H. Brittain (Australia) beat S. A. Narborough, 6—1, 6—0; D. Joubert (South Africa) beat G. R. Halder (Canada), 6—3, 6—2; D. Davis (Jamaica) beat C. R. England (New Zealand), 3—6, 7—5, 6—1; P. M. Doerner (Australia) beat D. H. Collings (Australia), 6—4, 6—4; L. Palin (Finland) beat K. R. Wurtz (Australia), 2—6, 6—3, 6—0; W. P. Prinsloo (South Africa) beat A. C. Compton-Dando, 6—1, 6—3; D. Segal (South Africa) beat C. J. Lewis (New Zealand), 3—6, 6—3, 5—2 (retd); I. Pollard (Australia) beat D. N. Pessin (US), 6—0, 6—1; W. Durham (Australia) beat J. M. Bailey (US), 3—6, 6—2, 6—3; A. Amritraj (India) beat G. Woodruffe (Australia), 6—0, 6—3; A. Parun (New Zealand) beat N. M. Callaghan (Australia), 6—2, 6—8, 6—3; B. Mitton (South Africa) beat N. D. Boyne (New Zealand), 6—4, 6—1.

Olympic Games

Killanin's silver linings now have clouds

From John Hennessy
Lausanne, May 19

Even Lord Killanin today admitted to "certain anxieties" about developments in Montreal where the 1976 Olympic Games are to be held next summer. If this hardly sounds like despair, it needs to be added that as a general rule the president of the International Olympic Committee, the blandest of sporting administrators, can rarely see the clouds for the silver linings.

But, while Lausanne was enfete today, ice-creamed to the eyebrows on a sultry ban kholiday by the lake (even Swiss banks take an occasional day off), several thousand miles away a political drama was being played out that touched every conversation on the eve of the 76th session of the IOC.

Jean Drapeau,t he mayor of Montreal, is to present a progress report (such as it is) on Wednesday, when, unless matters have taken an unexpected turn, the fears of the many Canadians here seems certain to be justified. Political interpretation is hardly a suitable subject for this page, particularly at such a distance, and I can only offer the second hand view that corruption in Canadian trade union affairs has reached such a pitch that the Governments, provincial and federal, dare not withdraw in the face of Olympic blackmail and maintain that the well being of the Canadian body politic transcends any sporting occasion.

Looking back, we can now see how disastrous was the 1970 IOC session at Amsterdam. First Montreal was chosen in preference to Moscow, who presented the risk only of bureaucratic intransigence, and, as a result, the obvious favourite for the 1976 Winter Games, another Canadian city, Vancouver, was passed over in favour of Denver. By now it is a matter of history that Denver had to withdraw in not entirely honourable circumstances.

The IOC were fortunate that Innsbruck offered a ready-made substitute for Denver, but it is late in the day to ask, say, Los Angeles or Teheran to take Montreal's place next summer. Beyond all that Amsterdam produced the expulsion of South Africa, not on the ground of principle (which many would have upheld), but because the then president of the IOC, Avery Brundage, misconstrued the intentions of his executivce board. One way and another, Amsterdam was one of the Olympic movement's darkest hours.

The irritating thought in Canadian minds is that most of the Olympic installations are in place. Only the main complex is held up, but it is a big "only". No other stadium in Montreal remotely meets the needs of an Olympic athletics meeting, nor is there a swimming pool that woud be suitable for such an occasion. Thus the main complex has become a valuable bargaining counter, a pawn in a game of political chess.

The other big item on this week's agenda is the Chinese application to rejoin the movement. When I tackled Lord Killanin on this subject today he was suitably inscrutable behind a beaming Irish smile. Elsewhere the impression gains ground that the constitution of the All-China Sports Federation does not conform to Olympic rules, principally because it does not total autonomy and is the governing body for sports other than the 26 in the Olympic movement. That at least would avoid, or hather postpone, the crunch arising from China's stipulation that recognition of Taiwan would have to be withdrawn.

Rugby Union

Preece could miss both internationals

From Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Canberra, May 19

Yet another misfortune befell the England rugby team today when it was learnt that Peter Preece, the Coventry centre, who scored four tries against New South Wales last Saturday, might well miss both the international matches. The medical advice is that his collar bone injury, sustained in the last game, will prevent him playing for another 10 days. There is no way, therefore, that he can play against Australia in Sydney this Saturday. It must be at least doubtful whether he will be ready for the second international in Brisbane, a week later. He did, however, feel easier after another visit to the physiotherapist this afternoon before flying off to Sydney for further intensive treatment.

This is depressing news for the camp, for Preece played as well last week as I have seen him perform all last season. His running off the ball was especially acute and effective. Now we are left with two specialist centres, Maxwell and Janion. A first cap for Maxwell, of New Brighton, now becomes almost a certainty, provided he comes through safely tomorrow afternoon in another difficult match, against the New South Wales Country side at Goulburn. I was impressed by Maxwell's vigorous and dependable game against New South Wales.

Squires, Morley, Bennett, Pullin, Burton, Uttley, Neary, Ripley and Rollitt remain the only sure selections for an international in which, as on the whole of this tour, the seasoned guard will bear a heavy onus. Apart from centre, the problem positions are full back, scrum-half, loose head prop and a partner for Uttley at lock. It is hoped all the answers may be resolved tomorrow.

Hignell so far has had but one rather muted game, in Perth. However, his ankle injury has vanished, he is sniffing for battle and he must feel that a dashingly effective performance could win him the vote over Butler, whose pace is not so sharp. His defence might be more solid, too. It is asking a lot of Oram to deliver the goods first time out, but a confident, error-free game might find him in the headlines by Wednesday. His rival, Kingston, has been too prone to rather alarming mistakes.

Wilkinson's back strain has recovered sufficiently for him to play, but the training today was not very strenuous and only time will show whether he is really fit. He says he feels happy about scrummaging and lineout play, less so about bending down to pick up the ball. He will not only have to prove hit fitness but play outstandingly well at close quarters to earn a place in the international. I fancy that Mantell with his fine all-round performance against New South Wales is now the favourite to come in at lock. It is likely that Nelmes, provided he has a good first game here, will be preferred to the much less experienced Blakeway at loose head.

Hipwell, with a groin strain, and apparantly against the wishes of the Australian selectors and coach, David Brockhoff, leads a Country XV that includes, besides himself, five of those who played for New South Wales. One of them is Lambie, a replacement then for Price, who seems sure to play on a flank in the international if he recovers from a thigh injury. "Country" hold the Wallaby trophy for the national championship—and traditionally are rugged opposition.

Local pundits have it that, Hipwell apart, Shaw, Monaghan, Fay, Price and Macdougall are the only certain Australian starters for Saturday. King had a good game at lock for Sydney against us. Whereas the international, Smith, did not show much for New South Wales. Harris, the Sydney No 8, looked a dashing performer.

The flanker, Cornelsen, who plays again tomorrow, was the player involved in a remarkably successful ploy from a tapped penalty, just about the time England arrived in Australia, that involved the interesting subterfuge of hiding the ball under his jersey. The Australian press now know him as the "stick it up your jumper" player. The Union game, which struggles here to take away press space from the League code, certainly had some headlines and column inches with that one.

ENGLISH XV: A. J. Hignell; A. J. Morley, A. W. Maxwell, J. P. A. G. Janion, D. Wyatt; W. M. Bennett, I. Oram; B. Nelmes, J. A. G. Raphael, M. A. Burton, R. M. Wilkinson, W. Beaumont, A. Neary (capt), R. M. Uttley, S. Callum.

NSW COUNTRY XV: M. Fitzgerald; D. McKinley, B. Mckay, G. Shaw, I. Cameron; J. Hindmarsh, J. Hipwell (capt); R. Leslie, P. Horton, J. Dawson, B. Mansfield, O. Eisenhauer, B. Cornelsen, A. Gelling, J. Lambie.

Wellington, May 19.—Scotland's rugby team arrived here tonight for a seven-match tour of New Zealand and later travelled to Nelson where they will play their first game on Saturday.

Ian McLachlan, the captain, one of the stars of the 1971 British Lions tour of New Zealand, said it was obvious from the All Black's short tour of Ireland, Wales and England last year that the New Zealand scrummaging had improved considerably. But he hoped Scotland would be able to match them in all aspects of forward play. The Scottish coach, Bill Dickinson, also regarded his forwards as the touring team's main weapon.—Reuter.

Golf

Oosterhuis finds his form and financial reward

New Orleans, May 19.—Peter Oosterhuis more than doubled his earnings on the United States golf circuit this year when he finished second in the New Orleans Open Tournament here yesterday. He shot a four-under-par 68 in the final round for a total of 273, 15-under par.

Before the tournament, Oosterhuis had won about £6,700 on the American professional circuit. Yesterday he collected £7,125 to increase his total to £13,825. Indeed, he produced his best performance of the year after starting the fourth round four shots behind Casper.

The lead was reduced to two strokes after nine holes and Casper looked in danger of losing it completely as Oosterhuis produced a late run. But Casper clinched victory with birdies at the 11th, 12th and 13th holes for a 70. Oosterhuis also recorded three birdies over the final nine holes to finish three strokes clear of Wadkins in third place.

271: W. Casper, 67, 68, 66, 70; 273: P. Oosterhuis (GB), 68, 68, 69, 68; 276: L. Wadkins, 69, 70, 70, 67; 277: R. Wynn, 71, 66, 70, 70; L. Hinson, D. January, 69, 71, 71, 66; S. Melnyk, 69, 69, 73, 70, 67, 68; D. Graham (Australia), 68, 72; 279: J. Porter, 74, 66, 71, 70, 69, 73, 67; 280: T. Shaw, 69, 67, 73, 70; 281: D. Douglass, 73, 67, 69, 71; G. R. Funseth, 70, 67, 72, 72; 282: B. Knudson, 72, 66, 73, 71; L. Trevino, Smith, 72, 70, 67, 73. Other score: 285: A. Jacklin (GB), 73, 71, 72, 69.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Flyers 2, Buffalo Sabres 1 (Philadelphia lead best-of-seven series 2—0).

Hockey

Frankfurt 1880 hold on to a valuable piece of property

From Sydney Friskin
Frankfurt, May 19

Frankfurt 1880 1 Leopold Brussels 0

To the all too frequent cries of wunderbar, Frankfurt 1880 won the European clubs hockey championship for the fifth year in succession here today. A goal about midway in the first half sufficed to beat Leopold Brussels in the final.

Only in the first few minutes did Frankfurt seem to be in any sort of danger. Rugner, their goalkeeper, made a great save off Tussaint, and Gilles put a shot wide of the mark. Once Kurt Wimmers scored in the 16th minute with a shot which reached its destination despite the intervention of the goalkeeper's pads, the Germans seemed unlikely to lose what they have come to regard as a valuable piece of property.

The match lacked the tingling tension of yesterday's game in which Frankfurt beat Southgate 1-0. As far as the crowd was concerned that was the final.

Much of the tension having eased, Southgate emerged with credit from the earlier match. They defeated Kampong Utrecht by 1-0 to take third place which represents the highest position attained by an English club in this tournament.

It did not seem to worry Southgate much whether they finished third or fourth. What mattered more was their zeal to play top class hockey and they hurled themselves into a refreshing contest of speed and technical skill without the services of Cotton and Aldridge, who had returned to London yesterday evening.

Southgate survived a few anxious moments today in the early exchanges. The Dutch missed a penalty stroke, with Litjes, their captain, putting a penalty stroke high over the crossbar and becoming involved in an incredible miss a couple of minutes later. A variation of tactics did not help Southgate with four short corerns. Three shots by Ekins were well saved. The fourth, which landed in the net, was rightly negatived for dangerous cutting.

Six minutes into the second half Corby, taking advantage of a slip in the Dutch defence, flicked a pass across the circle to Neale, who took his chance eagerly to put Southgate ahead. A little later Ekins had another shot from a short corner negatived for dangerous cutting. Then a hit by Walker from a short corner was saved near the line by Jebbink.

SOUTHGATE: D. J. Owen; D. B. Whitaker, D. V. Collison, R. T. Owen, A. H. Ekins, J. V. Knight (sub G. Pickard), M. W. Corby, I. S. McGinn, M. J. Crowe, J. L. Neale (captain), J. B. Walker.

KAMPONG UTRECHT: R. Toft; I. Jebbink, R. Claase, H. van Steveren, F. Marre, M. Ham, M. Noiet, H. Bodje, A. Bolhuis, P. Litjes (captain), J. Westdijle.

Umpires: H. Drozr and P. Erwig (West Germany).

RESULTS: Third place: Southgate 1, Kampong Utrecht 0; 5: Colegene 3, Egara Tarrasa 1; 7: Edinburgh Civil Service 3, Suboticanka Yugoslavia 1; 9: Rott-Weiss Wettingen 1, Bohemians Prague 0; 11: Lyon 3, Vienna 1.

Cricket

Roberts is decisive with fiery speed

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

BOURNEMOUTH: Hampshire (3 pts) beat Somerset by 50 runs.

By beating Somerset yesterday, Hampshire qualified for the quarter-final round of the Benson and Hedges, and for that they have to thank Roberts, their fast bowler. Needing 156 to win, Somerset were 60 for two at tea and going well; but in 13 balls afterwards Roberts removed Richards, Denning and Close for one run, and that was it.

In nine overs he took four wickets for 12 runs. This second spell of four overs, in which he turned the match Hampshire's way, was yards faster than anything I have seen this season, even from him. Against pace of this kind, cricket is a different game than the one most people, including first class cricketers, ever play. Vivian Richards, like Roberts, and Antiguan, had his off stump knocked out of the ground by the first ball of the evening. A marvellous piece of bowling, as much for its accuracy as its speed. Richards, until then, had looked like winning the match for Somerset.

In Roberts's next over Denning, blinking an eye and flashing a bat, was brilliantly caught at slip by Richards in front of his face. This brought Close in, as intrepid a player of fast bowling as there is in the game and the batsman some feel would have made a show against Thomson and Lillee. Two balls from Roberts were enough for him. The second, of full length, had him leg-before. Close, do not forget, is 44.

Somerset were not dead yet, not while Burgess and Slocombe were making 29 together. Slocombe's confidence was striking, though Roberts had come off with two overs still up his sleeve for later on should it be needed. At 19, Slocombe is another good Somerset prospect and local born, too, in Weston-super-Mare. But with the total on 92 Burgess drove Jesty hard and straight to Greenidge at short extra cover. Slocombe, trying to pull Taylor, skied him to the wicketkeeper, and the last three wickets went to Rice in four balls, one with a good return catch.

It had been a fine day, cloudless from start to finish, and there was a fair crowd by the afternoon. In their own batting Hampshire are not starting the way they should be at the moment from Richards and Greenidge. In nine innings this season Greenidge's top score is 35. In Hampshire's five one-day matches Richards has made only 61.

On Sunday, against Sussex, Hampshire were 19 for four. Yesterday after 20 overs, they were 55 for four. After they had each played one or two commanding strokes Richards and Greenidge were both out driving, Richards caught at the wicket, Greenidge splendidly caught by Burgess off his own bowling.

Early in the day, therefore, Hampshire we relooking for something substantial from Turner, Jesty or Gilliat. But Turner was bowled, playing no stroke (this happens, apparently, three or four times a season); Gilliat was bowled by Vivian Richards, Somerset's stop-gap bowler (Cartwright is injured again) playing a stroke that would have looked rough on the village green at Beaulieu, let alone on the county ground at Bournemouth. Jesty did better, making a ringing 47 before being bowled in the first over of the afternoon. As so often, Sainsbury was left to repair the situation as best be could.

Somerset did well to bowl Hampshire out so cheaply, especially after having victory snatched from them by McVicker at Yeovil on Sunday evening. I am asked whether McVicker's two hits, one over long-on and the other straight, would have gone for six on a ground of average size. The first, I think, would but not the second, a skimmer, fiercely hit. Being straight, it would have gone for four almost anywhere—before long-on or long-off could have cut it off—and a four by then was all that Leicestershire needed. Jones came back well yesterday from the experience; Close too, until he came up against Roberts. In the 318 balls of Hampshire's innings, Close managed nearer 319 adjustments of the field, usually only a matter of inches this way or that.

HAMPSHIRE

B. A. Richards, c Taylor, b Botham 16
C. G. Greenidge, c and b Burgess 15
D. R. Turner, b Burgess 9
T. E. Jesty, b Jones 47
*R. M. C. Gilliat, b Richards 5
P. J. Sainsbury, not out 33
J. M. Rice, c Burgess, b Botham 1
M. N. S. Taylor, c Close, b Burgess 4
†G. R. Stephenson, c Taylor, b Moseley 1
R. S. Herman, b Moseley 7
A. M. E. Roberts, b Jones 8
Extras (l-b 7, w 1, n-b 5) 13
Total (53 overs) 155

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—37, 2—38, 3—44, 4—55, 5—112, 6—117, 7—137, 8—134, 9—150, 10—155.

BOWLING: Moseley, 10—2—20—2; Jones, 10—2—28—2; Botham, 11—1—29—2; Burgess, 10—0—29—3; Richards, 5—1—34—1; Breakwell, 7—1—12—0.

SOMERSET

D. J. S. Taylor, l-b-w, b Roberts 4
B. C. Rose, l-b-w, b Taylor 23
P. W. Denning, c Richards, b Roberts 13
I. V. A. Richards, b Roberts 20
*D. B. Close, l-b-w, b Roberts 2
G. I. Burgess, c Greenidge, b Jesty 17
P. A. Slocombe, c Stephenson, b Taylor 19
I. T. Botham, c Gilliat, b Rice 3
D. Breakwell, c and b Rice 4
H. R. Moseley, b Rice 7
A. A. Jones, not out 0
Extras (l-b 2, n-b 1) 3
Total (45.1 overs) 105

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—43, 2—54, 3—60, 4—61, 5—63, 6—94, 7—94, 8—104, 9—104, 10—105.

BOWLING: Roberts, 9—2—12—4; Herman, 6—0—22—0; Taylor, 11—3—27—2; Jesty, 8—2—16—1; Sainsbury, 3—0—5—0; Rice, 9.1—0—20—3.

Umpires: J. G. Langridge and D. Oslear.

Shepherd hitting one of his four sixes at Lord's. Murray is the wicketkeeper.

Denness saves his best until last

By Alan Gibson

LORDS: Kent (3 pts) beat Middlesex by two runs.

It was a good match. Low scoring matches in one day competitions are almost always more interesting than high scoring ones. If Titmus had hit the last ball of the day for four, Middlesex would have won. He could only get a single, and so Kent still have a chance of progressing to the later stages of the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Denness chose to bat, when he won the toss. It was a damp and tricky wicket after all the rain we have had lately, but with the sun shining warmly, it was expected to become even more difficult as the day went on: and he had Underwood, whom every batsman in the world must dread on a drying pitch.

Kent lost three wickets for nine runs, and eight for 53. Titmus and Edmonds came on early (Titmus in the second over, though I understand that was because of a breakdown of Selvey's car) and they both had everyone fumbling. Shepherd, however, coming in a No 5 to meet a crisis, played a considerable innings. In his first 20 runs he might have been out several times, but the luck was with him, and he batted better and better as he went on. He was on the brink of his hundred, when he was caught at wide mid on in the last possible over of the Kent innings. One of his sixes nearly knocked down the scoreboard over the grandstand, although this was accidental, rather than deliberage, as it should be in a well-ordered cricket society.

His careful, correct partner for the ninth wicket was Underwood. Ultimately Kent scored 137, which at least gave them a chance. Brearley had kept attacking, with close fields, bowling his four principal bowlers right up to their one-day limits. It was, I think, the right policy—the final break was so near—and only narrowly did it fail. But Shepherd batted so well that for the last 11 overs there were only second-rate bowlers left, and these were the overs in which—it is easy enough to say it in retrospect—Shepherd and Kent won the match.

Middlesex began even more badly than Kent had done—three down for eight—but there was a solid, if slow, stand for the fourth wicket between Barlow (who added a number of runs to the score by his speed between the wickets) and Featherstone. At tea the score was 40 for three, with 24 overs bowled. Underwood had been on and was inexplicably taken off after two overs, during which he had beaten the batsmen four times. It looked all right for Middlesex, then.

But they had left it a little too long before they began to get a move on, and Barlow was out at 97, Featherstone at 115. Underwood, even if he did not bowl them out, kept the runs down and took the crucial wicket of Edmonds, 118 for six in the forty-ninth over. He was assisted by a remarkable stumping from Knott. A couple of boundaries by someone would still have given Middlesex the match, but Denness had held, his hard bowlers back to the end and boundaries were hard to come by. He deserved his win, for quite apart from Shepherd's innings he had the tactical success.

KENT

B. W. Luckhurst, c Brearley, b Titmus 7
G. W. Johnson, l-b-w, b Lamb 2
*M. H. Denness, b Lamb 0
Asif Iqbal, c Radley, b Edmonds 9
J. N. Shepherd, c Brearley, b Featherstone 96
†A. P. E. Knott, c Brearley, b Edmonds 1
R. A. Woolmer, st Murray, b Edmonds 2
B. D. Julien, c Radley, b Edmonds 0
A. G. E. Ealham, l-b-w, b Selvey 3
D. L. Underwood, not out 11
J. N. Graham, not out 2
Extras (l-b 2, w 1, n-b 1) 4
Total (55 overs) 137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—5, 2—5, 3—9, 4—35, 5—39, 6—44, 7—44, 8—55, 9—134.

BOWLING: Lamb, 11—6—13—2; Titmus, 11—1—27—1; Selvey, 11—2—28—1; Edmonds, 11—5—11—4; Emburey, 6—0—31—0; Featherstone, 5—2—23—1.

MIDDLESEX

M. J. Smith, l-b-w, b Julien 8
C. T. Radley, l-b-w, b Graham 0
*J. M. Brearley, b Graham 0
G. D. Barlow, c Asif, b Shepherd 34
N. G. Featherstone, c and b Shepherd 56
†J. T. Murray, b Shepherd 5
P. H. Edmonds, st Knott, b Underwood 0
F. J. Titmus, not out [illegible]
T. M. Lamb, l-b-w, b Graham [illegible]
M. W. W. Selvey, not out [illegible]
Extras (b 3, l-b 11, w 1, n-b 2) 17
Total (8 wkts, 55 overs) 135

J. E. Emburey did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—8, 2—8, 3—8, 4—97, 5—115, 6—118, 7—118, 8—129.

BOWLING: Julien, 11—2—23—1; Graham, 11—4—26—3; Johnson, 7—2—12—0; Underwood, 11—4—19—1; Shepherd, 11—3—21—3; Woolmer, 4—2—17—0.

Umpires: D. J. Constant and J. F. Crapp.

Gloucester v Glamorgan

AT BRISTOL

GLAMORGAN

A. Jones, c Brown, b Davey 0
A. L. Jones, c Sadiq, b Knight 30
R. C. Davis, c Knight, b Brown 19
Majid Khan, not out 97
G. Richards, b Brown 0
J. W. Solanky, run out 0
G. P. Ellis, c Stovold, b Davey 51
A. E. Cordle, b Dixon 2
M. A. Nash, not out 1
Extras (b 2, l-b 6) 8
Total (7 wkts, 55 overs) 208

*E. W. Jones, G. D. Armstrong did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—0, 2—41, 3—63, 4—63, 5—81, 6—195, 7—203.

BOWLING: Davey, 11—2—29—2; Dixon, 11—0—42—1; Shackleton, 11—0—51—0; Brown, 11—3—28—3; Knight, 11—2—30—1.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Sadiq Mohammad, run out 45
†A. W. Stovold, c E. Jones, b Armstrong 9
Zaheer Abbas, c Majid, b Solanky 27
R. D. V. Knight, l-b-w, b Nash 33
D. R. Shepherd, l-b-w, b Ellis 13
J. C. Foat, not out 42
*A. S. Brown, c Solanky, b Cordle 6
D. A. Graveney, b Nash 16
J. H. Dixon, not out 1
Extras (b 4, l-b 7, n-b 3) 14
Total (7 wkts, 55 overs) 205

J. H. Shackleton, J. Davey did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—11, 2—63, 3—83, 4—118, 5—139, 6—188, 7—199.

BOWLING: Armstrong, 11—2—34—1; Nash, 11—0—42—2; Cordle, 11—3—35—1; Solanky, 11—1—38—1; Ellis, 11—1—42—1.

Umpires: W. E. Alley and C. Cook.

Glamorgan (3 pts) beat Gloucestershire by three runs.

Northants v Worcester

AT NORTHAMPTON

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

*R. T. Virgin, c Parker, b Inchmore 6
P. Willey, b Inchmore 4
Mushtaq Mohammad, not out 20
D. S. Steele, c and b Johnson 24
G. Cook, c Wilcock, b Gifford 34
†G. Sharp, b Pridgeon 25
Sarfraz Nawaz, b Brain 10
A. Hodgson, b Gifford 17
B. S. Bedi, c Pridgeon, b Gifford 0
Extras (b 6, l-b 3, w 1, n-b 2) 12
Total (8 wkts, 55 overs) 152

R. M. H. Cottam, J. C. J. Dye, did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—12, 2—13, 3—47, 4—97, 5—98, 6—114, 7—152, 8—152.

BOWLING: Brain, 11—4—12—1; Inchmore, 11—1—42—2; Pridgeon, 11—1—30—1; Gifford, 11—3—18—3; Johnson, 11—1—38—1.

WORCESTERSHIRE

G. M. Turner, c Steele, b Dye 28
J. A. Ormrod, c Steele, b Dye 1
K. W. Wilkinson, l-b-w, b Dye 18
J. M. Parker, l-b-w, b Dye 0
T. J. Yardley, c Sharp, b Dye 3
I. N. Johnson, b Bedi 19
†H. G. Wilcock, st Sharp, b Bedi 12
J. D. Inchmore, b Bedi 0
*N. Gifford, not out 5
B. M. Brain, b Mushtaq 0
A. P. Pridgeon, b Cottam 5
Extras (l-b 7, w 1) 8
Total (41 overs) 103

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—5, 2—40, 3—42, 4—50, 5—51, 6—92, 7—92, 8—95, 9—102, 10—103.

BOWLING: Sarfraz, 6—1—13—0; Dye, 11—1—30—5; Bedi, 9—5—13—3; Cottam, 6—1—16—1; Hodgson, 3—0—15—0; Mushtaq, 7—3—10—1.

Umpires: A. Jepson and A. E. G. Rhodes.

Northamptonshire (3 pts) beat Worcestershire by 49 runs.

Sussex v Minor Counties South

AT HOVE

Sussex (3 pts) beat Minor Counties South by eight wickets.

MINOR COUNTIES SOUTH

A. G. Warrington, c Mansell, b Spencer 4
J. E. Turner, l-b-w, b Spencer 1
R. C. Cooper, l-b-w, b Spencer 23
†F. E. Collyer, l-b-w, b Spencer 5
R. W. Hutchison, c and b Waller 7
A. J. Burridge, c Parsons, b Waller 15
K. V. Jones, l-b-w, b Waller 0
M. D. Mence, c Greig, b Waller 7
E. Jefferies, c Waller, b Greig 16
*D. Yeabsley, not out 5
B. G. Collins, l-b-w, b Barclay 1
Extras (w 2) 2
Total (38.2 overs) 94

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—5, 2—6, 3—36, 4—49, 5—49, 6—50, 7—66, 8—72, 9—88, 10—94.

BOWLING: Snow, 3—2—1—0; Spencer, 11—4—15—4; Greig, 11—6—17—1; Waller, 10—3—25—4; Barclay, 0.2—0—0—1.

SUSSEX

J. D. Morley, not out 41
J. R. T. Barclay, c Jones, b Hutchison 24
M. J. J. Faber, c Burridge, b Jones 7
P. J. Graves, not out 18
Extras (b 6, l-b 1) 7
Total (2 wkts, 32.5 overs) 97

*A. W. Greig, A. E. Parsons, †A. W. Mansell, J. A. Snow, C. E. Waller, J. Spencer, C. P. Phillipson did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—33, 2—58.

BOWLING: Collins, 5.3—0—23—0; Yeabsley, 5—1—17—0; Hutchison, 11—6—9—1; Jones, 7—2—15—1; Jefferies, 4—1—26—0.

Umpires: W. L. Budd and R. Julian.

Warwick v Oxford and Cambridge U

AT COVENTRY

Warwickshire (3pts) beat Oxford and Cambridge Universities by seven wickets.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES

*T. R. Glover, c Bourne, b Rouse 0
C. J. Aworth, l-b-w, b Brown 4
Imran Khan, c Kanhai, b Rouse 8
C. J. Tavaré, c Kanhai, b Hemmings 40
P. Roebuck, b Brown 2
V. J. Marks, b Bourne 1
D. P. Russell, c Jameson, b Perryman 13
E. D. Fursdon, c and b Perryman 3
†P. B. Fisher, b Hemmings 0
F. J. Hayes, not out 2
C. P. T. Cantley, c Bourne, b Hemmings 3
Extras (l-b 5, w 6, n-b 1) 12
Total (39.3 overs) 93

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—3, 2—8, 3—16, 4—31, 5—32, 6—78, 7—80, 8—83, 9—91, 10—93.

BOWLING: Brown, 11—3—18—2; Rouse, 7—1—19—2; Bourne, 5—3—2—1; Perryman, 9—1—34—2; Hemmings, 7.3—0—18—3.

WARWICKSHIRE

J. A. Jameson, b Fursdon 3
D. L. Amiss, c Fisher, b Imran 0
A. I. Kallicharran, c Roebuck, b Hayes 27
M. J. K. Smith, not out 28
R. B. Kanhai, not out 21
Extras (b 1, l-b 5, w 7) 15
Total (3 wkts, 33.4 overs) 94

D. L. Murray, E. E. Hemmings, *D. J. Brown, S. J. Rouse, W. A. Bourne, S. P. Perryman did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—7, 2—8, 3—55.

BOWLING: Imran Khan, 9—3—16—1; Fursdon, 11—4—20—1; Hayes, 8—1—28—1; Cantley, 5.4—3—17—0.

Umpires: H. Horton and D. G. L. Evans.

Notts v Minor Counties North

AT NEWARK

Nottinghamshire (3pts) beat Minor Counties North by seven wickets.

MINOR COUNTIES NORTH: 67 (54.1 overs) (B. Stead 5 for 26).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

†M. J. Harris, not out 27
B. Hassan, c Bailey, b Milner 6
*M. J. Smedley, c Maslin, b Old 4
C. E. B. Rice, b Maslin 12
D. W. Randall, not out 17
Extras (b 2) 2
Total (3 wkts, 30.5 overs) 68

P. D. Johnson, H. T. Tunnicliffe, R. A. White, J. D. Birch, P. A. Wilkinson, B. Stead did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—11, 2—16, 3—37.

BOWLING: Milner, 11—4—15—1; Old, 11—4—13—1; Maslin, 7.5—0—36—1; Bailey, 1—0—2—0.

Umpires: R. Aspinall and K. E. Palmer.

Under 25 competition

WINCHMORE HILL: Middlesex 190 for 6 (40 overs) (M. W. Gatting 80); Sussex 121 for 6 (40 overs). Middlesex won by 69 runs.

Second XI competition

DOVER: Kent II, 211 for 9 (R. W. Hills 82, C. J. Rowe 55; N. G. Cowley 5 for 82). Hampshire II 141 for 8 (Cowley 56).

Tennis

LAS VEGAS: R. Tanner beat R. Case 5—7, 7—5, 7—6; J. Alexander and P. Dent beat C. Drysdale and R. Carmichael 6—1, 7—5.

Four mal[...] sure of qualifyin[g] places

Lancashire, Essex, [...]shire and Hampshire [...] sure of appearing in th[e] final round of the B[enson and] Hedges competition on W[...] June 4. For Lancashire [...] the fourth time in the [...] of the competition that [...] won their way through [...] eight.

The only other side w[...] lar record over the [...] years is Leicestershire. [...] have a game to play at [...] Warwickshire became [...] finish their group progr[...] the maximum of 12 p[...] four matches.

Northampton

Northamptonshire's lef[t-arm] bowler, Dye, took the [...] Worcestershire wicket[s at a] total cost of 30 in [...] overs and the visit[ors never] recovered, finally losi[ng by 49] runs. Bedi took [...] Dye and finished with th[...] Worcestershire were al[l out for] 103 in 41 overs with Tu[rner] top scorer with 28.

Northamptonshire hit [...] eight although Worceste[rshire had] early success when Inch[more] missed Virgin and Willey [with only] 11 on the board. Northan[ts] recovered, however, with [a ...] wicket stand of 50 by [...] and Sharp (25). Mus[htaq was] struck above the eye wi[th the first] ball he received from [...] He was helped off the fi[eld and went] to hospital for treatmen[t but re]turned to hit an unbeat[en ...]

Bristol

Glamorgan's captain [Majid] Khan, won the gold a[ward for] being "man of the mat[ch" by] guiding his side to victor[y by three] runs over Gloucestershi[re. His] unbeaten innings of 97, [which] included nine fours, left [his] side to get 209 and goin[g into the] final over, the Gloucest[ershire ...] the wicket, Foat and Di[xon, were] still nine short.

Foat needed at least fi[...] last ball but although [...] at Armstrong, the ball w[ent] to third man for a single. [Foat was] not out for 42, three ru[ns short of] his team's best scorer, Sa[diq].

Hove

Minor Counties Sou[th were] comfortably beaten by Su[ssex, who] won by eight wickets. Onl[y ...] offered any real resista[nce and] the Counties were out [in 38.2] overs for only 94. C[...] 19st salesman who has pl[ayed for] Somerset, took the initia[tive when] the opening two batsm[en had] gone for only six. He [hit] the ball hard until Spe[ncer had] him leg before for 23.

Spencer, who won t[he gold] award, bowled accuratel[y on a] damp pitch to take four [wickets] for nine in his 11 ove[rs and] Waller also took four wic[kets for] 25. Snow had only thre[e overs,] two of them maidens.

Coventry

Warwickshire beat the [combined] Oxford and Cambridge [Univer]sities by seven wickets, [but were] made to work hard for [...] of 94 by the Oxford [...] Tavaré, who scored 40 [in ...] minutes of unhurried defe[nce and] pleasant driving. His dism[issal by] Hemmings began a colla[pse, the] last five wickets falling [for the] addition of 15 runs.

Newark

Nottinghamshire surviv[ed the] dangers of a drying pitch [to beat] Minor Counties North by [seven] wickets. [...]

Benson & Hedges Cup tables

South [...]

West [...]

North [...]

Midland [...]

Today's cricket

BENSON & HEDGES CUP (11.0 [...])

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Worcestershire.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP

LLANDARCY: Glamorgan II v W[...]shire II.

LEICESTER: Leicestershire II v N[...]hamshire II.

BEDDINGTON: Surrey II v No[...]tonshire II.

DUDLEY: Worcestershire II v [...]shire II.

DOVER: Kent II v Hampshire II.

Football

Sea-going type paddling in the deep end

By John Downie

Scotland and Northern Ireland meet at Hampden Park tonight (8.0) with morale high on either side. Both countries in their drawn opening home internationals on Saturday played rather better than at some stage had seemed likely, and so are anxious to get back into action in search of further improvement.

Neither manager will announce a team until today. William Ormond yesterday justified postponement of his decision on the ground that he wished to see some of his under-23 players against Leeds United last night before deciding whether to promote them. David Clements commented, tongue in cheek, that he "might as well be the same as the rest".

He agreed that the only likely cause of a change in the Northern Ireland side was the injury to Hamilton, although he insisted that since Saturday the odds against Hamilton's playing had shortened from 6 to 4 to evens. Hunter and O'Kane also had taken knocks in the scoreless match with England, but neither was serious.

With three hard internationals to play in a week, neither side are bent on too strenuous a training programme. Paddling in the Firth of Clyde was an important ingredient of Scotland's preparation yesterday at Seamill. The Irishmen loosened up gently at Lesser Hampden in the forenoon and will probably do so again this morning.

It is as well that Mr Ormond is a steady sea-going type of chap who makes his own decisions, for the general trend of the advice he has received since Saturday is that Scotland eventually came on to a splendid game at Cardiff, but that he must change every section of the team. Unfortunately, he will once again have to change the central defence, Jackson having joined Holton and Buchan on the injured list. The obvious replacement there is Munro.

Farther forward, the fairly widespread opinion is that MacDougall, on the evidence of Cardiff, is not the answer to Scotland's striking problem that he had promised to be against Portugal, and that neither Dalglish nor Macari is as effective in midfield as he is when played farther upfield. It may be that the increase in tempo at international level prevents Dalglish from producing in a Scottish jersey the magic he brings to Celtic. But the short-legged Macari has always been at his most profitable when scurrying about in front of goal.

Ireland must find harmony for key match in Zurich

Kiev, May 19.—Ireland's party fly from Kiev to Zurich today with the knowledge that they must beat Switzerland this week to keep alive their hopes of qualifying from group six of the European championship. Last night in Kiev they lost 2—1 to the Soviet Union, whom they had already defeated 3—0 in Dublin last year.

However, this new Russian side is now settled but the Irish challenge appears to be wavering. After the loss in Dublin, Russian officials decided the only way to obtain a coherent side was to pick a team that plays together constantly.

They appointed last season's Cup and League winners, Kiev Dynamo, the national side as well. Last week, Dynamo won the European Cup Winners' Cup a[nd are] a confident team, whether p[laying] in national or club colours. [Ireland] are unlikely to find Swit[zerland] difficult to beat, either at ho[me or] away.

The Irish, on the other [hand,] struggled to beat Switzerlan[d 2—1] in Dublin a week ago.

English youth at hel[m]

Berne, May 19.—Englan[d won] the European Football [Union] (UEFA) youth champions[hip by] defeating Finland 1—0 in th[e final] here today after extra time. [Hun]gary beat Turkey 3—2 on p[enalty] kicks after a 2—2 draw (no [extra] time) to take third p[lace ...]

SPORT

Racing

Val de l'Orne may be Head's best

From Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent
Paris, May 19

Although Green Dancer is now firmly entrenched as the favourite for the Derby, it is possible to argue that the pick of the French and the best in England are more or less equal. The Irish 2,000 Guineas and the Prix de la Jonchère provided evidence to support that theory over the weekend.

In Ireland on Saturday Grundy beat Monsanto, the colt who finished fourth to Green Dancer in the French 2,000 Guineas. And yesterday the tight finish for the Prix de la Jonchère concerned the two colts who finished third and fourth in the French and English Guineas, respectively, Dandy Lute and Green Belt. Here in France I have detected a distinct feeling though that in Val de L'Orne Alec Head may even have one better than Green Dancer.

Head is reluctant to commit himself on that score. All he will say if you bring the subject up is that they have never been tried against each other at home and that they are both good colts; a sentiment echoed by Lester Piggott, who invariably has his finger on the pulse of international form. Certainly I get the impression here that Val d L'Orne will be the hope of the side—at least as far as the three-year-olds are concerned—when the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe comes around.

The French Derby, the Prix du Jockey Club, run four days after our Derby, ought to provide some sort of clue as to how Green Dancer and Val de L'Orne stand, because at Chantilly Val de L'Orne will have to contend with Mariacci, the only one to make a race of it with Green Dancer on Sunday. I have never seen Val de L'Orne, but they insist here that he is a nice colt and an outstanding prospect.

Green Dancer is thought to be much more the Epsom type and, having seen him on Sunday, I would not dispute that. Green Valley, his dam, is by all accounts a mare of great quality and clearly an ideal mate for Nijinsky. Great horse and character that he was, Nijinsky lacked the quality that his son, Green Dancer, possesses. I doubt very much whether anyone will be put off backing Green Dancer to win our Derby simply because no horse sired by the winner of our Derby has won the all important prize at Epsom since 1962.

That was the year of Larkspur, who was by Never Say Die. Larkspur profited from that awful mêlée on Tattenham Hill where six horses either fell or were brought down. Quite why Derby winners have been so conspicuously unsuccessful in siring one capable of following in their footsteps in recent years is not easy to explain. Perhaps one could put it down to the American influence lately. Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, Mill Reef, and Roberto were all by horses who stood in North America.

What backers of Green Dancer might find disconcerting is the knowledge that he will be ridden by a French jockey and that of those currently riding only Yves Saint-Martin has ever won our Derby.

With only three meetings a year at Epsom, English jockeys get little enough practice of riding round Epsom, which is a law unto itself. French jockeys get even less. They usually come only for the Derby, the Oaks or the Coronation Cup.

Fred Head, who will be on Green Dancer at Epsom, is brilliant at Longchamp, but his fan club in England, where he has not been conspicuously successful, is thin on the ground. Head will be associated with the failure of both Bourbon and Lyphard in the Derby, but it would not be fair to him to blame him for their defeats.

Bourbon became far to irate and upset in the parade to make his presence felt in the race. And with Lyphard it was his steering that was at fault, Lyphard's that is, not Head's. Rounding Tattenham Corner, Lyphard hung to the right so badly that there was a real fear that he might join those enjoying the fun of the fair. In any case, time was to show that Lyphard was no more than a miler.

In Green Dancer Fred Head has a real chance of winning his first Derby and his father another. One now has to cast the mind back to 1956 to recall the first and only time that Alec Head did what most trainers yearn to do, when he won the Derby with Lavandin.

This afternoon at St-Cloud Alec Head told me that he could not have been more delighted with Green Dancer in the few hours since his triumph in the Prix Lupin yesterday. He had eaten up by 10 o'clock that evening and this morning Head told me you would not have known that he had had a race. Yesterday I remarked that Green Dancer's temperament stood the test on the racecourse. This latest bulletin confirms that. A worrier is not the sort of horse to take to Epsom.

It has not yet been decided whether Primo Rico, who won the Prix le Roi Soleil at St-Cloud this afternoon will take his chance in the Derby. His owner Stephen Sokolow, whose colours were associated with that good colt, the French Derby winner Hard to Beat, asked for time in which to ponder before making up his mind. This was the Tiercé race, and true to form the event was fiercely competitive. In that context it was a good test.

Primo Rico came out of it with colours flying, racing so his owner told me on fast ground that he adores for the first time this season. What Mr Sokolow must now decide is whether to send Primo Rico to Epsom or whether to keep him for the shorter Prix Jean Prat, run at Chantilly on French Derby Day.

Regrettably, the English challenge for the most valuable race, the Prix Jean de Chaudenay, petered out in the straight when the much fancied Never Return, who had never been beaten in England, failed to improve from the perfect position in which Lester Piggott had him.

Afterwards, Never Return's trainer, Robert Armstrong, remarked: "I am very disappointed. That was not the horse that I know". The prize was won well by Daniel Wildenstein's four-year-old, Ashmore, who never looked like being beaten once Saint-Martin had shown his hand in the straight.

Here was still more evidence to support the remark which I made at the time that the page in our form book relating to the racing at Newbury on April 19 could well be torn from the book. The going at Newbury that day was unbelievably bad, and many a trainer left the course baffled by the results.

PRIX JEAN DE CHAUDENAY (Group II: £24,000: 1½m)
Ashmore, b c, by Luthier—Almyre (D. Wildenstein) 4-9-4 Y. Saint-Martin 1
Battle Song, b c, by Vienna—Black Beauty (Mrs A. Manning) 4-9-2 W. Pyers 2
Un Kopeck, b c, by Pieu'Arriere—Macopek (J. Marx) 4-9-8 H. Samani 3
ALSO RAN: Ramirez (4th), Been Buck, Steinway, Never Return, Ambrellita, Dahlia, Dhaubasix, Athenagoras, Funny Fellow, Mon Zouzou, Goldos, Sanctum.
PARI-MUTUEL: Win, 7.20 francs; places, 2.90, 14.80, 7.90. A. Penna. 3l, ½l. 2min 33.2sec.

Peter Prompt should not be slow to take advantage of conditions

By Michael Seely

After talking to Peter Walwyn I am convinced that the Lambourn trainer rightly regards Grundy as much more than the spearhead of his attack on Epsom. As he pointed out the three-year-old is very much the class horse of English entries. Despite the opinion of one or two misguided judges, Grundy towers head and shoulders over his three-year-old contemporaries in this country and by his narrow defeat at Newmarket and his victory in Ireland on Saturday confirmed this fact.

Walwyn tells me that the reason for Eddery having to make so much use of Grundy at the Curragh was because they were drawn on the outside and consequently had to go all the way to hold his position. There is no mistaking the confidence of Walwyn and Eddery now that their faith in Grundy has been fully justified.

Walwyn's first words to the champion jockey in the unsaddling enclosure were: "You're riding at Epsom, Pat?" "Yes, and he'll stay the trip", came the immediate reply. But here lies the rub. Despite Eddery's assertion the trainer is fully aware that stamina limitations are the possible chink in Grundy's armour. With the extra half mile to cover at Epsom Eddery will have to cherish Grundy's vivid powers of acceleration for a final furlong assault, as did those other speed horses Sir Ivor and Nijinsky in their Epsom triumphs.

Although the dice of probability will be heavily loaded in favour of Green Dancer on Wednesday, June 5, the Frenchman will find in Grundy a worthy foe. Walwyn's distribution of the remainder of his three-year-old team is not yet complete. Corby is definitely out of the Derby, and Consol can be considered unlikely to run as Walwyn considers that despite that horse's defeat of Hurry Harriet on Friday evening he lacks the necessary pace. Patch will probably tilt at Val de L'Orne in the French Derby. This leaves No Alimony and Red Regent.

A decision will be reached about No Alimony after the Predominant Stakes at Goodwood tomorrow, and Red Regent's future depends on how he fares in the William Lawrence Centenary Trophy at Nottingham today. Whether Red Regent takes the field at Epsom or not, this improving three-year-old can hardly be opposed this afternoon. The misfortune of his defeat at Newmarket was underlined at Chester when, ridden to make full use of his undoubted stamina, he gave an easy five-length beating to Ribellaro in the City Handicap.

It is more than likely that the Prince Regent colt is handicapped at least a stone below his true ability and must start at odds on to beat Ribellaro, only 5lb better treated for his trouncing at Chester. His only other opponent, Golden Rock, displeased in his work at Newmarket, but may need the race this afternoon.

The three-day Goodowod meeting begins today when the feature race is a new event, the Clive Graham stakes, named after the late, much loved and respected Scout of the *Daily Express*. A conditions race run over 10 furlongs, the event seems tailor made for Peter Prompt, a useful three-year-old handicapper last season, who ran particularly well when trying to give weight to Record Run and Kafka in the Ladbroke Chester Handicap.

He will have a tough opponent in Taros, who showed good form when trained in France last season. Now with Peter Walwyn, the Tudor Melody colt gave proof of his ability when second to Jimsun in the Earl of Sefton Stakes at the Craven meeting, but may find Peter Prompt's finishing speed too much for him today.

Lester Piggott, who rides Peter Prompt, resumes his partnership with Alanrod in the Halnaker Stakes. Alanrod won a two-year-old race in style at Epsom before being narrowly beaten by Victorian Habit at Ascot. The Ingham trained two-year-old unseated Piggott before the start that afternoon and galloped riderless round the course for several minutes, so may have been an unlucky loser.

I doubt, however, whether Alanrod can concede a stone to Victorian Habit's unraced stable companion, Prinia. Our Newmarket correspondent tells me that the daughter of On Your Mark is far in front of Victorian Habit on the Heath and receiving 14lb must be the selection today.

STATE OF GOING (official): Goodwood: Good to soft. Nottingham: Good. Ludlow: Firm. Ripon (tomorrow): Good to firm. Newton Abbot (tomorrow): Firm. Perth (tomorrow): Firm.

Ippolyti made a winning first appearance in the Viaduct Maiden Fillies Plate at Wolverhampton yesterday to become the first of Peter Walwyn's two-year-olds to score this year. Although the Lambourn trainer has had 19 three-year-old winners, including Grundy in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, he has run only four of his 57 juveniles so far.

Athletics

Stewart has chance for another double

By Neil Allen
Athletics Correspondent

Ian Stewart, Britain's outstanding athlete last winter, will make his return to the track in Britain with a mile at Crystal Palace on May 31, and a two miles in the Borough Road v AAA match at the same stadium on June 11. He will be taking on, respectively, a world record holder and a European champion in the two races.

Stewart has not had an important track race in this country since the AAA 5,000 metres championship of 1973. But he told me yesterday: "I am so keen to run that this season I may race once a fortnight." He could hardly have a more challenging start for in the Emsley Carr mile on May 31 Stewart is likely to meet Filbert Bayi of Tanzania who lowered the world record to 3min 51sec last weekend, and his opposition in the two miles on June 11 will be headed by Poland's European steeplechase champion, Bronislaw Malinowski.

Last March Stewart achieved the extraordinary double of the European indoor 3,000 metres title and the international cross-country championship within one week. Now he says his track training in the past fortnight has gone as well as it has ever done in his life. He hopes Bayi will be here for the mile. "I'll follow him through the first half, even if he opens with 1min 54sec. I certainly should be in sub-four minutes form, and maybe I can beat my personal best of 3min 57.2sec back in 1969. So far as the two miles is concerned, my fastest is 8min 22sec in 1972, but I must also be capable of beating that, too."

Stewart's two miles opposition will include David Black, Raymond Smedley, Christopher Stewart, Philip Banning and Knut Boro of Norway. Stewart feels the eight laps will provide the right test before the two 5,000 metres races he plans soon after in Helsinki and Stockholm. It is unfair to burden him with big goals so early in the season but one is bound to note that the world two miles record of 8mins 13.8secs is held by a British friend and rival, Brendan Foster.

World record is broken six times by Riehm

Rehlingen, West Germany, May 19.—A West German hammer thrower, Karl-Heinz Riehm, broke the world record six times in a row today—a unique performance in the history of the event.

Riehm's incredible series culminated in a throw of 257ft 6½in, beating the previous record of 251ft 6in by Aleksey Spiridonov, of the Soviet Union, by just over six feet. The 23-year-old athlete from Trier near here started with a throw of 251ft 7½in, followed by throws of 254ft 5½in, 252ft 11½in, the record of 257ft 6½in, 253ft 1½in and a final one of 253ft 3½in.

Watched by an excited crowd of 5,000 in this small town of 4,000 inhabitants in the Saarland near the French border, Riehm performed his amazing series of throws in ideal weather conditions. Riehm only slowly realized what he had achieved. He said: "I knew that I was in good form, but these results I can hardly believe. Never before did things go so well for me as today."—Reuter.

Canton, May 19.—Americans had their first look at the Olympic athletics potential of the Chinese here today, but made no hasty judgments. Willye White, the Olympic veteran, said after watching the United States win 14 of the first day's 15 events: "This is only a provincial team. Wait until we get to Peking. There we will see the Chinese national team. They are saving their big guns to surprise us."

Dr Richard Hill, the assistant coach, said: "They obviously have been doing a lot of studying. In many ways, their techniques look excellent—as good as our own. A lot of things they do look Russian or East German. I am sure they have studied Russian track films.

Jipcho loses mile

Eugene, May 18.—Ben Jipcho of Kenya, was today beaten for the first time in a mile race since turning professional. The race was won by an Australian, Christopher Fischer, in 3min 57.3sec.

Cycling

PRATI DI TIVO: Tour of Italy, stage three (108 miles): 1, G. Battaglin (Italy), 5hr 3min 3sec; 2, F. Galdos (Spain), at 21sec; 3, M. Lasa (Spain) at 1min 53sec; 4, F. Fabri (Italy), at 2min 14sec; 5, M. Bergamo (Italy) at 2min 14sec. Overall: Battaglin.
—END

ZIELONA GORA: Peace Race, stage nine (96 miles): 1, S. Szozda (Poland), 3hr 20min; 2, G. Lauke (E Germany); 3, H. Bouterhols (Netherlands); 4, F. Kalis (Czechoslovakia); 5, A. Judin (USSR), all 3hr 20min. Overall: R. Szurkowski (Poland).
—END

Goodwood programme

2.0 FOXGROVE HANDICAP (£639: 1¼m)

0 Fair Camille (J. Manley), P. Cole, 7-8-13 ... A. Holland
1202-00 Aldie (D) (P. Mellon), I. Balding, 9-8-13 M. McKechnie
4310-00 Percewood (D) (J. Joseph), W. Stephenson, 4-8-13 S. Hives
1000-30 Daniel (CD) (Miss Lawson), J. Dunlop, 10-8-12 T. Hamill
1122-32 Portopan (D) (Mrs McCloy), P. Cole, 4-8-12 R. Waterson
3302-13 Ballad Singer (D) (Mrs Cressey), R. Akehurst, 5-8-8

HALNAKER STAKES (2-y-o: £673: 5f)

ANGMERE HANDICAP (3-y-o: £812: 1m)

CLIVE GRAHAM STAKES (4-y-o: £1,668: 1¼m)

WESTERTON HANDICAP (£713: 5f)

LEVIN DOWN STAKES (3-y-o: £701: 1½m)

Nottingham programme

2.30 BAGTHORPE STAKES (2-y-o: £472: 5f)

004 Captain Lark (A. Stevens), Stevens, 8-11 ... R. Weaver 5 14
00 Chesterking (F. Galbraith), W. Marshall, 8-11 .. R. Marshall 11
2 Fast Music (J. Hardy), Hardy, 8-11 ... C. Moss 7
000 Huntercombe Lad (J. Cooper), K. Whitehead, 8-11 J. Skilling 3
00 Knight of Barter (Mrs Stafford), R. C. Ward, 8-11 C. Eccleston 15
00 Melody Bay (J. Hardy), Hardy, 8-11 ... R. Stalmaby

04- Deep River (Mrs J. Parsons), I. Walker, 9-0 P. Colquhoun 7
00-0 Dunvegan (J. Lambton), J. Bethell, 9-0 ... E. Hide
0 Guiting Song (Mrs D. Jennings), P. Walwyn, 9-0 P. Eddery
00-0 Princely Chief (W. Sherman), B. Hills, 9-0 ... G. Lewis
0000- Roussillon (D. Lark), W. Marshall, 9-0 ... R. Marshall
Staff Sergeant (Mrs R. Francis), J. Dunlop, 9-0 Ron Hutchinson
0042-0 Angel Row (Mrs F. Allen), R. Jarvis, 8-11 ... M. Thomas
Conning Tower (Mrs S. Joel), H. Cecil, 8-11 ... F. Durr
0- Dolbain Gem (P. Day), J. Harris, 8-12 ... B. Clotworthy 7
Five Card Stud (J. Fisher), P. Robinson, 8-11 .. P. Young
00- Goldania (E. Bailes), R. Vibert, 8-11 ... M. Kettle
Gallaborough Grey (R. Mason), Mason, 8-11 ... J. Higgins
22320-4 Mount Grace (L. Holliday), Denys Smith, 8-11 P. Kelleher
0-0 Patiala (Mrs P. Emmet), R. Houghton, 8-11

3.0 LANGWITH HANDICAP (£711: 1m 5f)

3.30 WILLIAM LAWRENCE HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,973: 1¼m)

4.0 CINDERHILL PLATE (Div I: 2-y-o: £414: 5f)

4.30 EASTWOOD HANDICAP (2-y-o: £483: 6f)

5.0 FLYING HORSE PLATE (Div I: 3-y-o maidens: £414: 1m 40yds)

5.25 FLYING HORSE PLATE (Div II: 3-y-o maidens: £414: 1m 40yds)

5.50 CINDERHILL PLATE (Div II: 2-y-o: £414: 5f)

Black District (N. Callaghan), Callaghan, 9-0 ... W. Carson
10 00 Chemin de Fer (R. Overall), F. Maxwell, 9-0 ... B. Taylor 11
13 00 Endorcement (R. Darley), P. Milner, 9-0 ... G. Morgan 7 5
18 0 Glenamore (P. Chalmers), A. Jarvis, 9-0 ... G. Baxter
Grittar (F. Gilman), W. Wharton, 9-0 ... P. Eddery 12
22 00 Just Fred (W. Kendrick), R. Hollinshead, 9-0 ... T. Ives 1
24 0 Sanpaul (J. Hanlan), R. Hannon, 9-0 ... F. Durr 9
27 00 What a Find (J. Hardy), Hardy, 9-0 ... C. Moss 10
30 Boldetta (J. Spriggs), M. H. Easterby, 8-11 ... M. Birch
31 Carved Air (P. Glossop), R. C. Ward, 8-11 ... C. Eccleston 13
33 Harry Hall (R. Green), A. Armstrong, 8-11 ... —
37 0 Kirkworth Lady (T. Orton), A. Goodwill, 8-11 Miss L. Goodwill
39 The Paillard (Lady Oakley), J. Astor, 8-11 ... E. Eldin
45 0 Star of Ormonde (B. Swain), Denys Smith, 8-11 P. Kelleher 7

2-1 Black District, 4-1 Harry Hall, 6-1 Chemin de Fer, 8-1 Grittar, 10-1 Sanpaul, 12-1 Boldetta, The Paillard, 16-1 Star of Ormonde, 20-1 others.

Nottingham selections

By Our Racing Staff
2.30 Fast Music. 3.0 Vernier. 3.30 Red Regent. 4.0 Adamio. 4.30 Musical Piece. 5.0 Conning Tower. 5.25 Highview Lord. 5.50 Black District.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
3.0 Vernier. 4.0 Bagshot. 4.30 Musical Piece. 5.0 Conning Tower. 5.25 Highview Lord. 5.50 Black District.

Goodwood selections

By Our Racing Staff
2.0 Daniel. 2.30 Prinia. 3.0 WARBECK is specially recommended. 3.30 Peter Prompt. 4.0 Baildon. 4.30 Fiery Ring.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 Prinia. 3.0 Warbeck. 3.30 Peter Prompt. 4.30 Toussaint.

Ludlow N H

CAYNHAM HURDLE (Handicap: £306: 2m 1f)

3.15 TEMESIDE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £544: 3m)

3.45 LINNEY HURDLE (Novices: Div II: £306: 2m 1f)

4.15 PRIORS HALTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £556: 2½m)

4.45 STANTON LACEY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £588: 2m)

5.15 LINNEY HURDLE (Novices: Div II: £306: 2m 1f)

LINNEY HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £306: 2m 1f)

SELECTIONS: 2.15 Thomas Edward. 2.45 Balkotina. 3.15 Cwm Castell.

Windsor

MAYFAIR PLATE

WHITEHALL PLATE

Pontefract results

Hamilton Park

3.45 (3.47) GARFORTH HANDICAP (3-y-o: £690: 6f)
Fearless Boy, ch c, by Yellow God—Madam Clare (D. Robinson), 8-3 .. B. Raymond (9-4 fav) 1
Crackador, ch f, by Cracksman—Cacadors Folly (G. Gilyead), 7-3 L. C. Parkes (20-1) 2
Northern Fair, b f, by Bold Lad (Ireland) — Fair Bid (S. Yoshida), 8-13 .. E. Hide (3-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 5-1 Keith's Fridge, 10-1 Confleur (4th), 11-1 Variety, 12-1 Peter Calter, 16-1 Grand Hope, My Sunny, 20-1 Saxelby Melody, Tee Cee, Kelso Belle. 12 ran.

ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav, Supreme Gold, 9-2 Princely Mount, 13-2 Barsheba (4th), Big Morton, 10-1 Arras Gem, 16-1 Track Minstrel, Decision. 10 ran.
TOTE: Win, 86p; places, 30p, 27p, 34p; dual forecast, £1.55. M. Jarvis, at Newmarket. Nk, 1½l.

5.15 (5.17) MICKLEFIELD STAKES (£714: 1¼m)
Franc Flinders, ch c, by Current Coin—Polly Flinders (T. Lucas), 4-9-0 ... E. Hide (5-4 fav) 1
Escarole, b c, by Herbanger—Landmark (C. Freud), 4-8-10 W. Carson (11-2) 2

Sovereign—La Cloche (Mrs C. Pugh), 5-9-7 E. Johnson (13-2) 3
ALSO RAN: 14-1 Silver Teal, Connecticut (4th), Birthday Parade, 18-1 Hardly Cute, 20-1 Irish Melody, Sovereign Liege, 25-1 Early Morning, 33-1 Parlor Noble, Bold Warrior, King's Scholar, Lawfully, Prize Bingo, Spirit of Ecstasy, Sweet Innocence. 17 ran.
TOTE: Win, 24p; places, 11p, 15p, 19p. P. Rohan, at Malton. Nk, 7l.

5.45 (5.48) STANLEY FILLIES (Div II: 2-y-o fillies: £345: 5f)
Sweet and Naughty, ch f, by Connaught—Sweet Singer (D. Adams), 8-2 .... E. Hide (5-1) 1
Short Reign, br f, by Tribal Chief—Brevity (G. Blum), 8-2 E. Eldin (5-1) 2
Grecian Cloud, ch f, by Gallivanter—Anthela (C. Paxton), W. Carson (3-1 fav) 3
ALSO RAN: 7-2 Pams Gleam, 7-1 Hilliana, 12-1 Fawn Princess (4th), 20-1 Cotham, Hatfield Star, Reppove, Timjay. 10 ran.
TOTE: 77p; places, 22p, 25p, 16p; dual forecast, £1.18. W. Watts, at Richmond. 3l, 2l.
TOTE DOUBLE: Fearless Boy, London Glory, £11.50. TREBLE: Don Rogan, Noeletta, Franc Flinders, £120.20.

Gang Plank, ch f, by Tower Walk—Honea (C. Freemantle), 3-8-1 A. Kimberley (2-1 fav) 3
ALSO RAN: 9-2 Hazy Melody (4th), Scarlet God, 8-1 Chivas Regal, 10-1 Champagne Cork, 14-1 Black Pate, On the Run, 16-1 High Walk, 20-1 Majestic Streak, Lady Chancellor, Viborhi. 15 ran.
TOTE: Win, £1.49; places, 28p, 21p, 15p. D. Holmes, at Malton. 8l, 1l.

5.15 (5.16) SCOTTISH RIFLES HANDICAP (£414: 1½m)
Gold Coin, b h, by Le Dieu d'Or—Sunday Out (H. Leonard), 5-8-11 E. Apter (7-2) 1
Van Gogh, b h, by Pardao—Golden Corn (W. Taylor), 6-7-11 S. Houlker (14-1) 2
Baggin Time, b f, by Pinsun—Roy Chatenn (G. Baillie), 4-9-1 C. Dwyer (7-2) 3
ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Salvo of Conkers, 6-1 Woswyn (4th), 7-1 Jill Owens, Caleta Prince. 7 ran.
TOTE: Win, 41p; places, 21p, 34p; dual forecast, £1.51. W. Gray, at Beverley. 2l, 3l.
TOTE DOUBLE: Squires Vine, Dunmurry Boy, £3.60. TREBLE: Flyer, Pinacle, Pampered Sovereign, £95.70.

Brilliantine backed

There have been strong market moves for Brilliantine in the Oaks. The price is 10 to 1 with Ladbrokes and Mecca, and 12 to 1 with Hills. Moonlight Night has ben backed down to 5 to 1 with Corals, and 7 to 1 with Hills.

All leading bookmakers report heavy support for the Derby favourite, Green Dancer, after his impressive victory in the Prix Lupin at Longchamp on Sunday.

Wolverhampton

2.0 (2.4) VIADUCT PLATE (2-y-o fillies: £414: 5f)
Ippolyti, b f, by Derring-Do—Sandfly (C. Karpidas), 8-11 P. Eddery (5-1) 1
Star Walk, br f, by Tudor Walk—Welsh Star (Mrs D. Anderson), 8-11 ... P. Waldron (11-4 fav) 2
Ebb and Flo, b f, by Forlorn River—Dam'n Blast (Mrs D. Hayles), 8-11 ... G. Sexton (3-1) 3

5.0 (5.5) OLDBURY PLATE (Div II: 3-y-o: £414: 1m 1f)
Tom Pearse, ch c, by Tom Rolfe—West Bramble (Mrs D. Davidson), 9-0 ... P. Eddery (6-4 fav) 1
Nae Bird, b f, by Birdbrook—Right Barnie (Lord Strathalmond), 8-11 G. Baxter (11-4) 2
Derry Dale, b f, by Derring-Do—Wasdale (Miss E. Rigden), 8-11 F. Morby (20-1) 3
ALSO RAN: 4-1 Chita, 11-1 Sistina (4th), 20-1 Regal Rocket, 25-1 Manzoni, 50-1 Port Side, Golden Lad, Birdseye, Eager Pace, Adamay, Creamery Royal, Overshoot, Some Say. 16 ran.
TOTE: Win, 23p; places, 12p, 17p, £1.03. P. Walwyn, at Lambourn. ½l, 1½l.
TOTE DOUBLE: Shackle, Mistress Clare, £17. TREBLE: Canny Spy, Star Tall, Jemimaville, £84.55.

Southwell NH

2.30: 1, Pincharlo (14-1); 2, Full Value (5-1 fav); 3, Cherry God (20-1). 18 ran.
3.0: 1, Lord Leo (9-2); 2, Hardinge Arms (10-1); 3, Qualls (13-2). 12 ran. Dardanella Lady, Mr Manacle, 5-1 jt favs.
3.30: 1, Dingle Poke (5-2); 2, Highlands Imp (12-1); 3, Tostal Time (2-1 fav). 15 ran.
4.0: 1, Dunhigh (11-1); 2, Wintergreen (11-2); 3, Lovely Lilling (7-1). 14 ran. Victorian Vision, 5-2 fav.
4.30: 1, Dolben Lass (14-1); 2, Supertip (9-1); 3, The Shining Lad (20-1). 15 ran. Front Bencher, 9-4 fav.
5.0: 1, Grass Hand (8-1); 2, Gypsy Queen (25-1); 3, My Ribero (11-1). 17 ran. Nambour, 5-2 fav.
TOTE DOUBLE, £18.60. TREBLE £310.75.

After a 10-year wait for their first winner, Tom Barratt and his wife, Pauline, had the Snaith Two-year-old Plate taken away from them in the stewards room at Pontefract yesterday. Their horse, Gunner B, who won by three lengths, was disqualified and the jockey, Brian Connorton, was suspended for four days for careless riding on the colt. Connorton's suspension will take place from Wednesday, May 28 to Saturday, May 31 inclusive.

The stewards decided that Gunner B, who, after a struggle to get through inside the final furlong, streaked away from well backed Fir's Hill and Miss Kissfield, interfered with Miss Kissfield. Fir's Hill was awarded the race, with Miss Kissfield promoted second and the odds-on-favourite Leinster House third.

Bruce Raymond, who partnered Fir's Hill, went on to complete a 112-1 treble when he scored twice in the colours of David Robinson.

PARLIAMENT, May 19, 1975

British Leyland aid should help other sectors of industry

House of Commons

MR STANLEY (Tonbridge and Malling, C) asked when the Secretary of State for Industry would be announcing his detailed proposals for the implementation of the Ryder report on British Leyland.

MR BENN (Bristol, South East, Lab)—I must ask him to await the second reading debate on the British Leyland Bill which has been arranged for Wednesday.

MR STANLEY—Parliament is being asked in that debate to approve finance for one of the largest single commercial investments ever made in the public sector without being provided with any information on the expected return on that investment.

Does he propose during or preferably before the debate to give Parliament this information because without it we are being asked to arrive at a decision in the *dark as to the crucial basis of the* return ?

MR BENN—I appreciate his point. As Government get involved in industrial matters we confront this question on how much can be disclosed without damaging the firm concerned.

I do not claim every bit of relevant information can be made available. We will do our best and if there are any pieces of information he would like and have not been published, I will look at them again.

But it is difficult, if Gvoernment is brought into this area, to find immediately and first time round the satisfactory answer to this difficult question.

MR EDELMAN (Coventry, North-West, Lab)—Pending his further statement, does he agree that the future of British Leyland is of vital national interest and that if, however improbably, the Brussels Commission were to try to interfere with the implementation of the Ryder report, the British Government would have power to veto such interference through the Council of Ministers ?

MR BENN—I must not enter into matters of legal interpretation but my understanding of the provisions of the Treaty is that the Council of Ministers would have to be unanimous to override a Commission decision. Therefore, the United Kingdom Government alone would not have power to do this.

MR RICHARD WAINWRIGHT (Colne Valley, L)—There is con*cern in other sections of British* manufacturing industry at what the Prime Minister has admitted to be the preemption of such an enormous amount of available resources by a leading unit in one industry alone.

Will Mr Benn undertake in the debate to put this expenditure into the context of the overall needs of the manufacturing sector ?

MR BENN—There is force in what he says. Given the fact that we have been investing at about half the rate of our major industrial competitors across the whole of manufacturing industry, if you seek to correct in one company, however large, that deficiency, you are accelerating investment there and questions are raised about other areas.

But much of the money which will be spent by British Leyland will go into other British manufacturing firms. For example, Alfred Herbert, who make machine tools, will benefit from the British Ley*land programme* and we hope, by correcting this deficiency over the years, that one expenditure will help reinforce other sections of industry.

MR TOM KING (Bridgwater, C)—*Has a full assessment been* made in making investment in British Leyland in what may not be a profitable venture, of the impact on the profitable exports which could have been made by those contractors *finding their order* books filled with British Leyland work ?

MR BENN—The theory that there is always alternative, profitable employment if we can only chop out what is unprofitable is a little theoretical. People do not easily move from one type of venture to another so we have to look at this in the light of what is practicable.

This country could not survive unless we are able to make our own competitive motor cars rather than see a huge inrush of increasing numbers from abroad. The best assessment has been made.

The Government do not dictate their own timetable in matters of industrial rescue cases which may be affected by factors outside their control.

Procedure must move with changing trend

MRS RENEE SHORT (Wolverhampton, North-East, Lab) asked what proposals the Lord President of the Council had to improve working conditions for MPs

MR EDWARD SHORT (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Central, Lab)—A select committee under the chair*manship of Mr Van Straubenzee* (Wokingham, C) is at present considering the general question of support facilities for backbenchers. The first report of that committee was published today. I shall with my colleagues be giving urgent consideration to those recommendations.

The conversion of the Norman Shaw North building has recently provided additional accommodation for some 130 MPs. The Services Committee will continue to seek further means for improving the working conditions of the House.

MRS SHORT—There is great concern at the way this House is run, the way its business is organized, and the tremendous amount of legislation pouring out from MPs, necessitating a large number of full-time MPs—I exclude Opposition MPs because they are not full-time—an 80 to 90-hour week, not including weekend work.

This is taking a tremendous toll on the life and health of MPs It is high time that a complete reorganization is done of the way in which the House is run

MR SHORT—The large volume of legislation in this session flows from the manifesto on which Mrs Short and I fought the last two elections.

MRS SHORT—It is a five-year Parliament. (Laughter).

MR SHORT—I agree the time has come when the House must take a radical look at the way we do our business. I hope to make a proposal later this session.

MR FINSBERG (Camden, Hampstead, C)—Those MPs who find too much work here can easily apply to the Chiltern Hundreds.

MR SHORT—There is a feeling that the time has come when we *must look at the way in which we* carry out our business. There is the complication of European legislation now and any modern government intervenes a great deal and this is increasing. (Shout of " Too much ".) *May be too much,* but these are the facts of life.

Parliament has not kept up with this trend. The time has come when we must look at it in a radical way.

MR CORMACK (South-West Staffordshire, C)—Apart from the noise going on at present Norman Shaw does afford excellent facilities for MPs. Will he consider the *possibility of converting the other* Norman Shaw building and scrapping once and for all the grandiose new project ?

MR SHORT—I hope it will be possible to make a statement on this and related matters in the near future.

MR MIKE THOMAS (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab)—Could he give some assurances as to how the *Boyle Committee is proceeding and* when it is likely to report ? Will he write to the Editor of *The Times* and tell him that the report on April 28 saying that MPs were against the raising of their salaries is wholly erroneous ?

MR SHORT—I do not write to the Editor of *The Times.* I hope the Boyle Committee will be able to submit their report to the Prime Minister in June.

The SPEAKER—One of my troubles is that I find MPs in rude health far too often. (Laughter.)

Religion to be no job barrier in Ulster

House of Lords

The Air Travel Reserve Fund Bill was read the third time and passed.

LORD DONALDSON of KINGSBRIDGE, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, moving the second reading of the Fair *Employment (Northern Ireland)* Bill, said its purpose was to promote equality of opportunity in employment between people of different religious beliefs. Under the Bill it would be unlawful to dis*criminate on employment on* the grounds of religious belief or political opinion. When two candidates presented themselves for a job with equal physical and mental aptitudes one of them should not be given preference over another simply because of his religion.

The Bill adopted a mixed approach combining the voluntary with the compulsory, providing a *means by which* employment practices which breached the principle in the Bill could be identified and remedied either by conciliation or by compulsion through the courts. It made religious and political discrimination *unlawful and provided* machinery for remedy. It applied in the public and private sectors. It *provided* exemption for the employment of teachers in schools.

It was designed to deal with a difficult and deeply engrained problem in the unique context of Northern Ireland. It would be foolish to expect that the Bill on its own would provide equality of opportunity for all in *Northern* Ireland, but the Government believed that it would provide a lead and guide to a sustained voluntary effort

LORD BELSTEAD (C) said that the line in Northern Ireland between hope for better things and the possibility of tragedy remained paper thin, but thewe proposals could tip the scales towards a better future.

The Bill was read a second time.

Expenses for litigants who are not represented in court

LORD DARLING of HILLSBOROUGH moved the second reading of the Litigants in Person (Costs and Expenses) Bill. He said that *the number of cases con*ducted by the litigant in person would increase and it would be wrong to continue the present unfair discrimination against the person going it alone in respect or *costs and expenses.*

The Bill would only reimburse litigants who succeeded in the courts. It was intended to reimburse the litigant in person for the expenses he was involved in in *conducting his case.*

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said the Bill intended that the litigant in person who won his case should be put as far as possible in the same position as the represented litigant and be able to recover his costs. In effect the Bill would reverse a longstanding rule affirmed in the Lords that the litigant in person could not recover *in respect* of the work he did in preparing his case for court.

The number of litigants in person coming before the courts was continuing to grow.

No one should be forced to seek the *help of a lawyer but equally* nobody should be discouraged from doing so because in the considerable majority of cases the help of the lawyer was needed.

LORD DENNING, Master of the Rolls, said that the Bill remedied a small injustice. He found many litigants in person. Every Monday *morning there were three or four* coming into his court. This morning there was a lady who had been locked out of her workroom. She had been locked out by the judge. She appealed to his court. She had *counsel against her, and she won.*

The practice of the courts for several hundred years had been that the litigant in person could not get anything except his disbursements.

I am glad to say (he said) that this Bill will remedy that.

It sometimes happened that a person with a reasonable case lost it. If a poor man without legal aid lost his case he had to pay all the costs of the other side and the court had no discretion

In recent weeks, a man who had been standing on a picket line lost his case and was ordered to pay all the costs of the other side. If he *had gone to the court and asked* for legal aid and got it the court would have had a discretion to deal with it.

When a person was legally aided by statute his means and his conduct in the case could be considered and he could be helped with regard to mitigating the costs he hae to pay.

The Bill was read a second time.

VAT on rented televisions

MR RICHARD MITCHELL (Southampton, Itchen, Lab), asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what contractual arrangements the 25 per cent VAT rate was payable on existing television rental contracts.

MR GILBERT, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply—The renting of a television set is a taxable supply of goods for VAT purposes. By virtue of sections 5 and 7 of the Finance Act, 1972, and regulations made under the latter section, VAT becomes chargeable at the time of each invoice under a rental contract (*or at the time of each payment if an invoice does not pre*cede the payment), and the rate chargeable at each such time is the rate in force at that time. no matter when the contract was originally made.

For invoices or payments on or after May 1, 1975, *the rate in force* is 25 per cent.

The tax falls upon the television rental company, and nothing in the VAT legislation obliges them to pass on any increase or decrease to a customer if the rental contract provides otherwise, but section 42 of the 1972 Act requires that contract prices should be adjusted to take account of changes in the rate of VAT unless there is contrary provision in the contract.

Need for long-term look at steel capacity

MR MICHAEL MARSHALL (Arundel, C) asked when the Secretary of State for Industry next expected to meet the chairman of the British Steel Corporation (Sir Monty Finniston).

MR BENN—*I met the chairman* on April 28 and I am still awaiting a reply to my request, dated May 6, for a meeting with the Board of BSC and the unions.

MR MARSHALL—Is it not high time he stopped using the chairman of BSC as a whipping boy and turned the Government's attention to the vital question of deciding what is to be the investment programme of BSC, particularly as it affects Scotland and Wales ?

The whole recent saga bodes ill for the future of the aerospace and shipbuilding industries.

MR BENN—I do not accept what he says. When the statements printed in the papers were brought to my attention and anxiety was expressed by the unions, I invited Sir Monty Finniston to come to see me. *At* the meeting I asked him to consider carefully whether these statements were correct or he had been misrepresented. I put some important matters of public policy to him in a letter.

I had a response in which he confirmed the truth of the press reports and commented on the matters I had raised with him. I asked the union to look at these *same problems and suggested* a tripartite meeting after he had met the unions.

This was perfectly reasonable. The board of any nationalized industry must recognize that it has to have a good relationship with its own workers, that matters affecting jobs should be discussed with the unions and that the Government are bound to be concerned *even if only because of the invest*ment implications.

MR EDWARD TAYLOR (Glasgow, Cathcart, C)—There is concern in Scotland because most of the *closure* proposals are concentrated in areas of high unemployment. Do the Secretary of State and the Government support the proposals put forward by the board for work sharing, as opposed to *plant* sharing, if this appears to be the best way of holding the labour force together in present difficult times ?

Why are we importing so much steel in Britain when we are closing down so many plants because of lack of demand ?

MR BENN—There is great anxiety in Scotland and it is not confined to Scotland. He asked me to comment on work sharing or other arrangements. It would be wrong for me to seek to engage in speculation about matters that are to be discussed by the BSC and the union.

On the question of importing steel, this is exactly the point I am making. In 1971-72, when there was a downturn of trade the BSC closed *so* much plant that when the *upturn came we had to meet it by* imports.

It is not so stupid for a government to look long term at an industry and not simply look at it on a month-by-month basis of demand. I have these points in mind. My main concern is that these difficult matters should be discussed on a tripartite basis.

MRS BAIN (East Dunbartonshire, Scot Nat) said there should be a separate Scottish Steel Corporation. There was opposition to that idea because it would be a competitor to the English steel organizations.

MR BENN—The idea does not have wide support among steel workers. The main strength of steel workers lies in their working together within the unions. It would weaken rather than strengthen that if they were divided.

MR FLANNERY (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—There is deep feeling among workers in steel about possible lay-offs. Last night at a meeting of 2,500 people in Sheffield, that feeling was expressed.

There will be a lobby and a demonstration at *Parliament* today by people deeply concerned about the chairman of the BSC (Sir Monty Finniston). They are worrying themselves to death about the lay-offs, and they want to know what is happening.

MR BENN—I am this afternoon meeting some of the people who are coming to London. This matter must be discussed between the corporation, the unions and the Government.

MR TOM KING, an Opposition spokesman on industry (Bridgwater, C)—Mr Benn referred to good relations between management and workers in the industry. Will it help to have this public meeting with people coming to London, at this delicate time, when management *and unions* are meeting ?

MR BENN—The day that ministers are frightened to meet constituents, Parliament will perish *and die. Mr King* has no business saying to an MP or a minister that he should not meet people who have come to meet their representatives to express anxieties.

There is just as much anxiety among management in the steel plants as there is among those in skilled and unskilled jobs.

Sensible to continue to support ICL

MR MOONMAN (Basildon,Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Industry for a statement on the European Parliament's report on the IBM company's domination in Europe, so far as his policy towards its recommendations were concerned.

MR BENN—I take it that the question relates to the recent *report on data processing prepared* by the economic and social committee of the European Parliament. That report makes recommendations for Community action and it is for the European Commission to decide whether to put forward proposals to the Council of Ministers based on those recommendations.

MR MOONMAN—For two years *this committee* has been vetting sharp practices by IBM in relating one company's production to another. One thing we might do would be to approach ICL and see whether we could develop a proper *computer strategy within Europe,* whatever happens on June 5, and we might have a Green Paper setting out our thinking on the electronics industry.

MR BENN—As to the studies of the electronics industry, this is something which has concerned the Government. Due to the active and strong support Mr Moonman has endorsed over the years for ICL, IBM in the United Kingdom only has 38 per cent of the market, whereas in the EEC as a whole it has 60 per cent. There we have had a satisfactory performance by ICL.

I would be reluctant for political reasons to deprive ICL of arrangements that did not appear to make commercial sense to them. These matters of international cooperation can survive in or out of the Community.

MR WARREN (Hastings, C)—What is the government's attitude to the recently announced formation of the monopolies Honeywell-Bull and CII company in France, which puts United States-dominated companies in first and second place in the French and European computer industries ?

MR BENN—I thought this ques*tion might arise. I am told that the* Honeywell-Bull arrangement in France will not affect the United Kingdom, but clearly there is growing American or developing American domination in computers, which makes it all the more sensible that we should continue with the policy successfully adopted by both governments of supporting ICL to be as good a company as it is.

Parliamentary notices

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Limitation Bill, report stage and third reading. Policyholders' Protection Bill, committee stage.

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Finance (No 2) Bill, committee stage.

Secretary of State unaware of any jobs lost in Wales as result of EEC

MR JOHN MORRIS, Secretary of State for Wales (Aberavon, Lab), replying to questions. There have been no EEC proposals to cut back on steel production. There is no question of the *EEC imposing cut*backs in British steel without the approval of the Council of Ministers.

Earlier, he had said that withdrawal from the EEC would involve an unacceptable risk to the prosperity of Wales.

MR GERAINT HOWELLS (Cardigan, L)—Is Mr Morris satisfied that Welsh agriculture and particularly livestock farmers will do well once we are full members of the EEC, and that the common agricultural policy will be of benefit to Welsh producers ?

MR MORRIS—We have been anxious to ensure that there are some changes in the CAP. This has been recognized throughout Europe. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr Peart) has ensured that Welsh agriculture is fully protected. He will continue to do so in future.

MR IOAN EVANS (Aberdare, Lab)—In the run-up to the referendum, it is important we get away from the politics of fear. Before we joined the EEC, people said it would be disastrous if we did. Now they say it will be disastrous if we leave. With unemployment, the balance of payments, inflation and a number of other matters, it has been disastrous for Wales in the early years.

MR MORRIS—Mr Evans would not expect me to agree with all he said. It is important we establish the facts and this discussion is carried on a national basis as it is being carried on in Wales.

MR WYN ROBERTS, an Opposition spokesman on Wales (Conway, C)—He should correct the wrong impression given over the weekend by the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr Benn). Will Mr Morris tell the Welsh people that if they had lost jobs there recently it was because of the world recession and possibly the lack *of business confidence* induced by Mr Benn ?

MR MORRIS—It is for Mr Roberts to address his questions to Mr Benn. I am not aware of any *jobs lost in Wales as* a result of our membership of the EEC. What we are all suffering from is a worldwide recession. Joining or staying in the EEC will not solve our problems ; we have to solve them *within this island ourselves.*

MR CLEDWYN HUGHES (Anglesey, Lab)—We must concentrate on the politics of truth in our approach to the referendum. For virtually every industry and firm in Wales, their industrial future and job prospects are more assured within the EEC than outside it.

Bill next session if local councils do not end selection in schools

MR SHELTON (Lambeth, Streatham, C), opening a debate on grammar and direct-grant schools, called attention to the activities of the Secretary of State for Education and Science in seeking to alter fundamentally the status and structure of these schools without direct legislative sanction.

He moved: " That this House deplores the substitution of the rule by circular for the rule of law, *and the reckless disregard* by the Secretary of State of the harmful effects of his policy on educational standards."

He said there was growing concern about some educational stan*dards. One good comprehensive* school in south London estimated its absenteeism rate at about 18 per cent, with the truancy rate perhaps half that figure. As for violence and indiscipline two surveys undertaken by the *National Association* of Schoolmasters gave no cause for complacency by all concerned.

Many people were coming to the conclusion that part of the problem lay in the inherent dilemma that existed especially in the all-through 11 to 18 comprehensive schools in urban areas. This was the conclusion that if they were large enough to generate an adequate sixth form they were too large to control in terms of discipline. They were too large for the pupil to identify himself with the school.

Selection at 11-plus could not be defended on *educational grounds,* but in the long run they might wish to move towards a middle school system. They did not know that for certain. That was why the Opposition repeatedly said that they needed an independent inquiry, not in an atmosphere of criticism, but of information so that they could know which way they should go with educational development. Until they knew which way they should go, they should keep the good schools of whatever sort.

Although it seemed immoral to defend selection, the Secretary of State could not deny that selections at the earliest moment was right for educationally subnormal and handicapped children.

Why was it that the academic child was the only one not singled out for special attention ?

Until all the questions were answered it was fundamentally damaging to education to bulldoze through compulsory comprehensive education and destroy good schools without having an independent inquiry.

Voluntary aided schools received two forms of remuneration: from the local education authority and the Secretary of State to cover buildings and external repairs. In both cases there was a statutory duty to do this.

This statutory duty (he said) cannot be abrogated by a decision of the Secretary of State without coming to the Commons for powers.

MR CHRISTOPHER PRICE (Lewisham, West, Lab) said most direct grant schools were founded by pious men, specifically for poor *children.* Many direct grant schools were owned by the Roman Catholics, and they had taken their foundation articles seriously. In many direct grant Roman Catholic schools no fees had been charged since the 1944 Education Act.

Conditions in urban areas were such that they could not solve them if the young people who were ultimately to have positions of responsibility received their education in institutions separate from those for whom they would take decisions and with whom they would have to live.

The Times Educational Supplement was not a left-wing newspaper. The editor, who he respected, was sometimes thought to be the friend and mentor of Conservative Central Office. He did not know if this were true, but some people were saying it. But the paper had made a plea to end the present system cleanly, quickly and once and for all so everyone would know where they were. He hoped Mr Prentice would look at this.

MR DUDLEY SMITH (Warwick and Leamington, C) said Mr Prentice was courteous and friendly, but he was always wrongly portrayed in the press as a moderate Labour Cabinet minister. In fact he was an immoderate minister when dealing with education. He was every bit as bad as Mr Benn.

If Mr Prentice remains in his job (he continued) we shall see the destruction of a good educational system which has been built up since the passing of the 1944 Education Act.

In the past when concerned with other subjects Mr Prentice had a reputation for moderation. He should understand that minority rights should be kept in mind.

The academic case for retaining some form of selection in education was formidable. The whole process of life was one of selection. Whatever name the system was given there would still be selection and there would still be those who were bright and intelligent and those who were dull and *needed special attention.*

MR BRYAN DAVIES (Enfield, North, Lab) said the circular issued by Mr Prentice was not strong enough. It left far too great an area of discretion. If a number of schools did leave the state system of education this would not have been decided on the educational merits of the case but purely on the financial position of individual schools.

When one examined the social mix of direct grant schools what one saw was not a social mix which reflected in any way, shape or form the broad composition of Bri*tish society but social* selection in which 2.5 times as many pupils were children of the middle class, as that group was represented in the broader society, and where there were 2.5 times as *few* working-class children.

Administration

MR FREUD (Isle of Ely, L) said that in the past few days the Secretary of State, *like* a latter-day Beeching with a shining axe, had warned colleges of education that there would be a cutback in teachers. He said there was no need for them. He should remember that every extra teacher made the appalling teacher-pupil ratio better. If there was to be a cut it should be in educational administrators.

Was it worth giving 12 per cent of children a better education and thereby depriving 88 per cent of the chance of contact and social intercourse with those who were lucky or better endowed with brains ? This was the question they had to ask themselves.

He could see no reason, in a country with the financial limitations that Britain had, for talking about abandoning 88 per cent of the children for the sake of those 12 per cent.

To condemn a child to any kind of failure at any age was wrong. No child was a failure; it was the adults who had failed a lot of children.

MR RONALD THOMAS (Bristol, North-West, Lab) said that for a party which believed in comprehensive secondary education it would be ludicrous for Labour to continue with the direct grant system. Both the direct grant and the grammar school system were systems not so much of selection but of rejection based on all kinds of fortuitous factors.

While the decision-makers in society could find ways and could afford to send their children to other than the state system there would not be the state system which was wanted.

MR ST JOHN-STEVAS, Opposition spokesman for education and the arts (Chelmsford, C), said the Opposition would regret to see the kind of change at the Department of Education which had been suggested. Their anxiety was not because of the retention of the present occupant but because of the possible successor who might turn up in the shape of the Secretary of State for Industry who, like Banquo's Ghost, had come in and out of the discussion.

What we fear (he said) is that we shall not only have Macbeth *but Lady Macbeth as well.* That would be a considerable combination to deal with. It is a sad reflection on the present state of our political commentary that the Department of Education should be thought of as a suitable refuse dump for the disposal of inconvenient ministers.

Education was a subject of paramount importance and the effects of education policies would be felt long after the economic debates which preoccupied MPs had been relegated to the more unreadable portions of *Hansard*, and that was saying something.

Circular 4/74, which sought to impose a system of comprehensive schools without regard for educational considerations, local conditions or parental wishes, had no force of law. It was an expression of the wish of the Secretary of State, no more and no less. It did not request information, it required *information.* It gave no indication that local education authorities and managers of voluntary schools were entitled to withhold that information

The Secretary of State had recognized the weakness of his own position when he used threats that if local education authorities failed to comply with the instructions they would be deprived of their building programme. It was wrong *in principle* to use the technical device of the building programme, which was designed to ensure good economic management, in order to coerce local authorities. That was a misuse of power.

MR ARMSTRONG, Under Secretary for Education and Science (Durham, North-West, Lab) said Mr Prentice had acted within the law all the time.

The debate had indicated a divergence of philosophy and approach of the two sides to what they meant by education, and what they expected the educational service to achieve.

There are (he said) positive advantages when all pupils are being educated together. This is taken for granted in the primary schools, and it was recommended in a consultative *document* prepared by an independent committee in 1931. What is good practice in primary schools ought by now to be operative in secondary schools.

It was time the Opposition were honest on where they stood. These were matters on which none of them should be dogmatic.

To yield to the motion would mean the reallocation of scarce resources *to a now privileged sec*tor. That could be done only at the expense of other necessary parts of the service.

As for the rule of law, the Secretary of State had a duty under Section 1 of the Education Act, 1944, to secure the effective execution by local authorities under his control and direction of national policy for providing a varied and comprehensive education service in every area. *Circular 474* spelt out that policy in no uncertain terms.

Seven authorities out of 97 had resisted the Government's invitation to comply with national policy and to end selection. Other *authorities had said* they ought not to go fully comprehensive until more resources were available, although they were anxious to go ahead.

We are asking those seven auth*orities* (he said) to reconsider their policy and to cooperate in a national policy, a policy which is overwhelmingly supported in the country. We have proceeded by consultation and by persuasion.

But (he continued) we are determined to carry through this policy of education advance in every area. We are preparing the necessary legislation and we will introduce it in the next session *of* Parliament if any authority still insists on retaining selection, thus frustrating nationally agreed policy.

The use of building allocations to implement policy had occurred when Mr St John-Stevas was at the department. This had been done by successive Secretaries of State. There was nothing new in it. The Secretary of State was acting in accordance with powers laid on him by Section 1 of the 1944 Act.

Legislation would not be required to carry out the Secretary of State's proposals on direct grant schools. The relevant statutory regulations would have to be changed and appropriate regulations would be laid before Parliament, subject to negative resolution.

The debate was adjourned.

Union criticizes cut in regional programmes

By a Staff Reporter

A "dramatic" decrease in regional programmes *put out by* Anglia Television was criticized by its technicians in evidence to the Annan committee on the future of broadcasting yesterday.

Delegates from the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians said they were alarmed that of 100 hours of broadcasting a week only four to five hours could be described as regional.

That figure had been decreasing dramatically over the past five years.

The union expressed concern that the Independent Broadcasting Authority could construe the decline as a lack of commitment on the company's part to regionalism and that reorganization in *broadcasting might* mean a swing towards centralization. The consequences might be "very serious both for the viewers and those employed by regional companies ".

Plymouth Sound, Britain's eleventh local independent radio station, began broadcasting at 6 am yesterday, leaving eight more to come on the air by December 31.

Whether they will all start operating by the deadline set by the Home Secretary, who wanted all 19 operating so that the Annan committee could examine a full year's activities, depends on how readily cash will be forthcoming *from* backers.

Both Radio Trent, serving the Nottingham area, and Radio Tees are scheduled to begin this summer, possibly next month in the case of Nottingham.

The other stations *still* to come by December 31 are at Wolverhampton, Bradford, Portsmouth, Ipswich, Belfast, and Reading.

The total gross revenue of the 10 stations *broadcasting during the* first four months of this year was almost £2m.

Wilson pipe now has its niche in history

By Philip Howard

The Prime Minister came down to the East End last night to open Britain's national museum of *Labour history* in Limehouse Town Hall. Living socialist notables who turned out among the memorials of their predecessors, to make it like a roll-call of the Labour establishment at the last trump, ranged from Mr Michael Foot and Mrs Castle on the left to Mr Hugh Scanlon and Mr Clive Jenkins on the farther left.

Mr Wilson has presented one of his emblematic pipes for display in the museum; but not the famous clogs in which he is said in some speeches to have trudged as a ragged urchin to Milnsbridge council school.

The museum is happily situated *in dockland,* the heartland of the Labour movement. At Mile End, up the road, Wat Tyler, shop steward of the Peasants' Revolt, met Richard II. At Poplar, George Lansbury and 29 other Labour councillors were gaoled in 1921 for refusing to pay what they considered a disproportionate share of poor relief.

Lloyd George made his seminal speech on land taxes at Limehouse. The three most famous strikes of the nineteenth century, the "Dockers' Tanner", the match-girls', and the gasworkers', took place locally. Clement Attlee, Herbert Morrison, and Charles Bradlaugh served their socialist apprenticeships in the district.

The Trade Union, Labour, Co-operative, Democratic History Society has managed to aggregate a large and rich collection of *memorabilia* and writings, illustrating 200 years of the Labour Movement from Thomas Paine to the plastic table around which the trade union leaders of Upp[er] Clyde Shipbuilders held their cabinets.

It is necessarily eclectic and folksy, because of the nature of *the subject,* relying much on contemporary newspapers, handbills and photographs, commemorat[ive] jugs and badges. It is a collecti[on] that looks more at home in [a] homely front parlour of Lim[e]house Town Hall than in so[me] grand gallery. Notable objec[ts] include the tables at which To[m] Paine and Richard Cobden wro[te] their influential words ; busts [of] Marx, Lansbury, and H. M. Hyn[d]man ; and the lamp used by K[eir] Hardie when he was a miner.

The museum is the result of [a] decade of campaigning, and [the] amalgamation of other collectio[ns] such as that of the Socialist Su[n]day Schools. *Its founding fat[her]* and curator is Henry Fry, ag[ed] 68. Mr Fry started work at t[he] age of 11 in a brush factor[y], became a Labour agent; retir[ed] to Jimmy Maxton's ILP wi[th] Ramsay MacDonald formed [the] coalition government; la[ter] became a mental hospital nurs[e] and has spent the past 10 ye[ars] persuading the Labour Moveme[nt] to look to its roots.

He said last night as the [...] Labour National Museum [was] ceremonially and happily opene[d]: "We have two principal objec[ts]. First to make the Labour Mo[ve]ment itself aware of the impo[rt]ance of its own history, becaus[e it] is not yet history-conscious. T[he] movement must know where it [has] been to know where it is going.

" Secondly, we want to educ[ate] the public, to balance the hist[ory] of the ruling classes, which [they] are taught, with the peopl[e's] history."

Botanical watercolours sold for seven times estimate

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A group of eighteenth-century botanical watercolours on vellum commissioned by the Duchess of Portland from artists such as G. D. Ehret and James Bolton was sold to H. P. Kraus, the New York bookseller, for £12,750 in a Sotheby book sale yesterday. The sum of Sotheby's top estimates on the 14 lots was £1,750. It was one of those sale room surprises which are guaranteed to delight the consignor.

Margaret Cavendish Bentinck, Duchess of Portland (1715-1785), was a notable collector ; the sale of her collection in 1786 took 38 days. This group of drawings was purchased at the sale by a certain Elizabeth Walker of Southgate and had been handed down in her family until sent for sale at Sotheby's.

The extraordinary prices at yesterday's sale resulted from the determination of H. P. Kraus to secure the whole group. There were four lots, each containing five drawings by Ehret of the 1760s, outstanding drawings by the man who was considered the leading botanical artist of his time. Sotheby's had estimated £200 to £250 on each, and they made £950, £900, £1,200 and £1,400; the price rising as competitors saw the possibility of securing a lot disappearing.

As the last lots in the group came up, the competition apparently became determined to make him pay for the privilege of acquiring the complete set. A group of 10 unattributed drawings estimated at £60 to £100 cost him £1,500, a group of 16, £1,400 (estimate £40 to £50); and the final group of 15, £2,200 (estimate £40 to £50). They kindly allowed him to buy the original red morocco portfolio (empty) at £140 (estimate £10 to £30).

The sale contained a substantial section of finely illustrated natural history books, and prices, which have marked time for so[me] months, seemed to be advanc[ing] once again. A complete set of 180 issues of the Botan[ical] *Magazine* between 1787 and 19[..] containing 10,300 coloured pla[tes] made £9,000 (estimate £5,000 [to] £7,000) ; a second lot, contain[ing] the first 46 volumes (1787-191[.]) made £1,800 (estimate £1,000 [to] £1,200) and the first 14 volum[es] made £650 (estimate £200 [to] £300).

Bonpland's *Description [des] Plantes Rares Cultivées à M[al]maison et à Navarre* of 1813, c[on]taining 64 plates, of which 54 [are] by Redouté, brought £3,500 (e[sti]mate £1,800 to £2,500) and P. Selby's *Illustrations of Brit[ish] Ornithology* (1833-1844), with [...] hand-coloured engraved plat[es] made £3,200 (estimate £2,500 [to] £3,000).

Sotheby's also held an antiq[ui]ties sale. The Norton Sim[on] Foundation acquired several lo[ts] including a twelfth-centu[ry] South-west Deccan carved stele [for] £1,900 (estimate £800 to £1,20[0]).

The Egyptian pieces genera[lly] ran well beyond estimate, wit[h a] black stone head of a man of [the] twenty-sixth dynasty at £1,[...] (estimate £400 to £600). In c[on]trast, the Luristan bron[zes] generally failed to sell. M[...] bouhian paid £3,800 (estim[ate] £5,000 to £6,000) for a go[ld-]mounted Nepalese ritual sword [of] the seventeenth or eighteen[th] century.

At Christie's, bidding was sel[ec]tive in a sale of Italian majol[ica] and Continental pottery. A l[ustred] Gubbio tondino of 1527 [by] Maestro Giorgio Andreoli ma[de] £5,040 (estimate £3,000 to £4,0[00]) and an Urbino dish decorat[ed] with the story of Diana a[nd] Actaeon made the same pr[ice] (estimate £2,200 to £2,800). [On] the other hand, two early Tusc[an] albarellos failed to sell. Amo[ng] Dutch and German pieces the[re] were buyers for the mo[re] important lots

Science report

Astronomy: Mercury's magnetic field

On March 16, the spacecraft Mariner 10 had its third and last encounter with Mercury. That encounter has provided new details of the planet's magnetic field.

The biggest surprise is that it exists at all. No one expected Mariner 10 to find a relatively strong magnetic field associated with Mercury, but it did so at the first encounter, in March last year. *Because of the orbit followed by* Mariner 10 around the Sun, it revisited Mercury at intervals of six months ; on the second encounter, last autumn, the trajectory was not ideal for studying the planet's magnetism, and priority was given to other experiments.

But in March this year, when Mariner 10 visited Mercury for the third time, it passed close to the planet at high latitudes, in just the region where the magnetic field could be studied in detail. Those studies have now been interpreted, and the results published in *Nature* by the magnetometer team of the National *Aeronautics* and Space Administration (Nasa).

The key question that remained after the confirmation that Mercury possesses a magnetic field was whether the field is still being generated by an active dynamo mechanism operating inside the planet, or whether it is just a kind of "fossil" magnetism, left over from dynamo action earlier in the planet's life, which might have produced a permanent magnetization of Mercury's rocks.

The maximum size of the field measured on the latest encounter was four times that measured last year from somewhat farther away from the surface of Mercury, and 20 times greater than the magnet[ic] field in interplanetary space. Th[e] field seems to be dipolar [in] structure, like the field of a ba[r] magnet or a simple solenoid carr[y]ing a steady electric current. D[r] N. F. Ness and colleagues [at] Nasa's Goddard Space Fligh[t] Centre conclude that an activ[e] dynamo mechanism must still b[e] operating in the interior [of] Mercury.

In a second report, based o[n] Mariner 10 measurements mad[e] both in March, 1974, and tw[o] months ago, Dr R. E. Hartle an[d] colleagues described the magneto*sphere of Mercury. The observa*tions show that Mercury's magneti[c] field interacts with the solar win[d] to produce a local region—the Mercury magnetophere—similar t[o] a scaled-down version of th[e] *Earth's magnetosphere. As the* space scientists say, " the magnetosphere of Mercury is remarkably similar to that of the Earth ". That confirms the idea that Mercury's magnetic field is being generated in the same way as the Earth's magnetism.

Together with other recent studies (see, for example, Science Report, April 24) these discoveries add considerable weight to the view that the inner planets of the solar system are much more like one another than might appear from superficial differences related to the presence or absence of atmosphere and oceans.

By Nature-Times News Service
Source: *Nature*, May 15 (255, 204 and 206, 1975).
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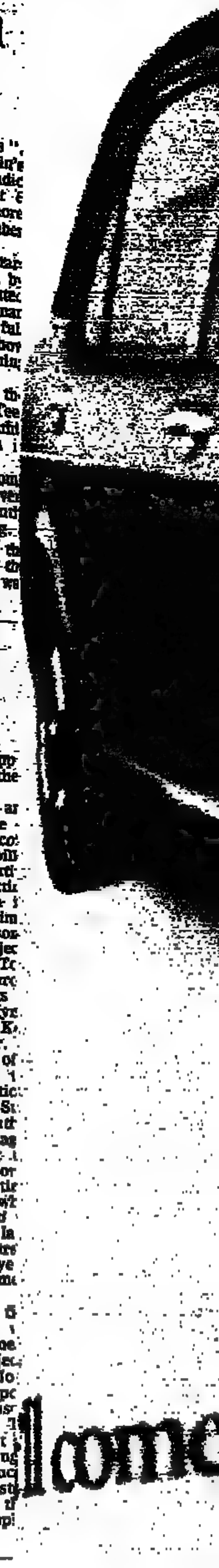
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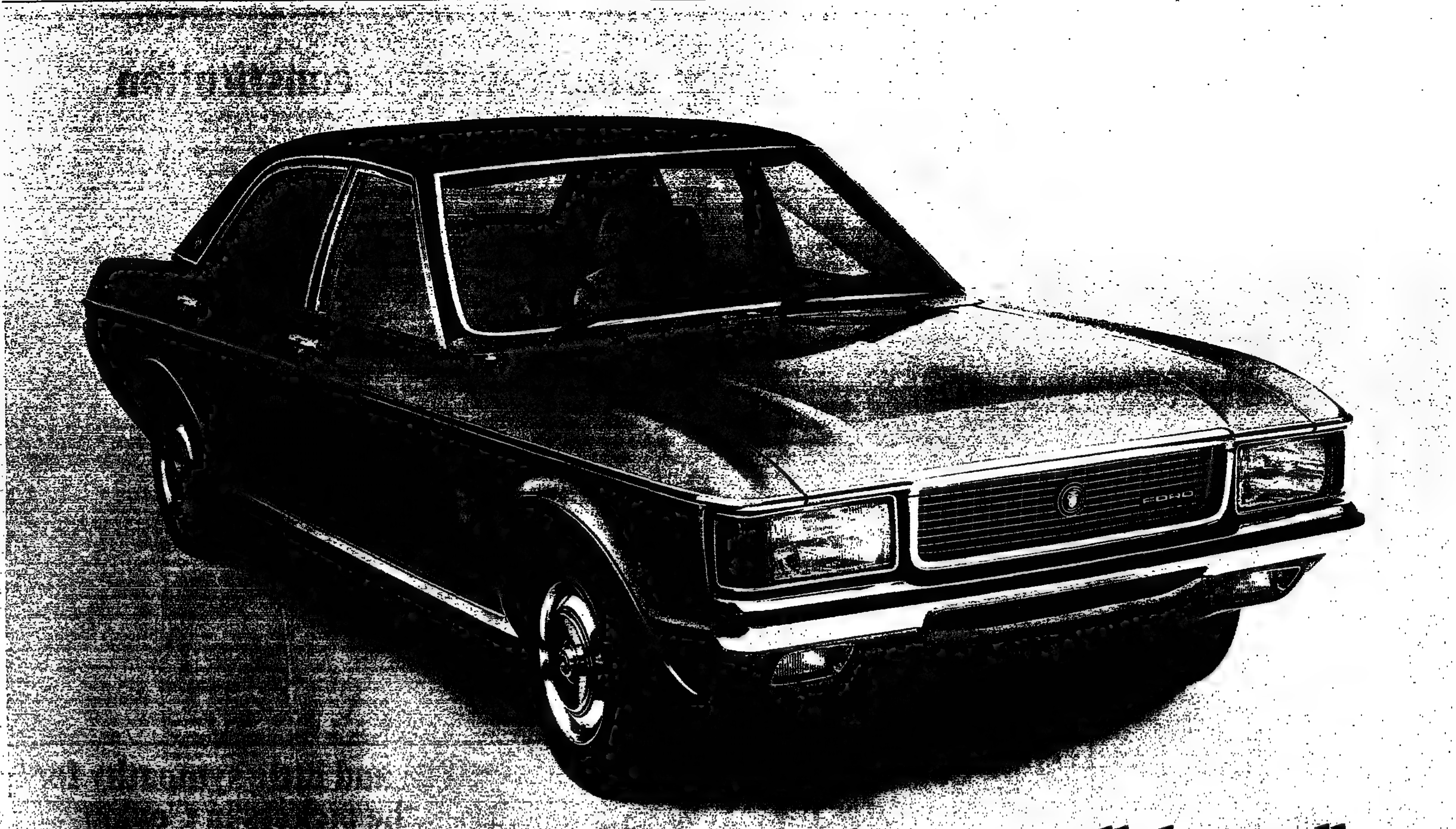

Bernard Levin

Liquorice allsorts for pay day

I am open to correction, of course, but it is my opinion that a straight line is usually *the shortest distance between two points.* I also believe, and am only prepared *to abandon* my conviction on being shown really powerful evidence to the contrary, that parallel lines rarely, *if* ever, meet. Finally, exhaustive investigation of the matter has left me fully persuaded that in any right-angled triangle the square on the *hypotenuse is* equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

In enunciating these principles I claim *no great degree of* originality in their discovery. Until yesterday, indeed, I would have said that most *people who have dwelt on these* things for any length of time have found themselves of the same mind. In fact I would hardly *have troubled to raise* the subject, had it not been for the fact that Mr Alan Fisher, *General Secretary of* the National Union of Public Employees, appears to reject all three conclusions, and *for* good measure to deny that water flows downhill, that Christmas comes but once a year, *and that, in* the late Ernest Hemingway's memorable words, if thine aunt had *cojones she* would be *thine* uncle.

All of our resources, all our strength

Mr Fisher's vigorous assertion that twice two equal five was made in the course of a speech launching his union's annual conference, from which the delegates will return home *having settled on a claim for a* pay increase of 33 per cent. His union's members, he declared, will *fight* any reductions in *Government spending* if these threaten their jobs or wages. In this fight, he said, "we will use all of our resources, all of our strength and all of our determination", and he made it especially clear *that his union would have* no part of the thinking behind Mr Anthony Crosland's revelation that "The party's over", and that local *authority* spending will have to be reduced.

But whatever Mr Fisher's views on the question, it remains true that circles are round and, rectangles oblong, and that when Galileo dropped *the stone off the Leaning* Tower of Pisa it fell down, not up. It is, of course, possible for the Government to pay every member of the National Union of Public Employees their wages every week whether there is any work for them to do or not, and to pay them, moreover, not in liquorice allsorts but in per*fectly genuine* pound notes. Indeed, that is precisely what the Government has done in the docks and intends to do at British Leyland, and Mr Michael ("This is well within the terms of the social contract") Foot has just given his constituents a guarantee that they will continue to be employed by the British Steel Corporation even if they *are not called* upon to make steel because there are no customers who want any. But, after a time, *even the least bright member* of Mr Fisher's union will begin to notice that his wages might *just as well have been paid* in liquorice allsorts for all he can buy with them.

Whatever the causes of inflation, and whoever the causers, it cannot be denied that the cure must involve a diminution *of the amount of money slosh*ing around in the system without production to match it. (Though even the production *is no use in itself;* if it were, there would be nothing wrong with employing Ebbw Vale *steelworkers to go on making* steel that nobody wants to buy, and to draft further workers into the area and employ them to throw the steel thus made down holes in the ground, dug by still more workers *employed specially for the pur*pose.) That being so, the Government, in the person of Mr Crosland, has made it clear—or, to be precise, taken great care to avoid making it clear—that the *rate of* increase of local government expend*iture is to be reduced,* and that the Government will use its financial powers to see that it is.

To *this,* Mr Fisher replies by, in *effect, doubling the* fourth and fifth fingers of his right hand into his palm with the thumb pressed across them, *and simultaneously extending* the index and middle fingers, slightly parted, with the knuckles facing outwards, accompanying *the gesture with* a sound made by expelling air from the pursed mouth while vibrating the lips rapidly.

And if he *thinks,* as he *clearly does, that that is suffi*cient *answer,* let him reflect on another aspect of the situation. Suppose that, faced by the resolute opposition of Mr Fisher and his followers, the *Government gives in* (*this is,* as a matter of fact, what is most likely to happen) and *agrees that local authorities* may after all go on increasing their expenditure to their—*nay,* to *Mr Fisher's*—heart's content. Suppose that, in pursuance of this laudable aim, they refrain from reducing the number of Mr Fisher's men they employ, and indeed engage many more. Suppose, *further, that they make* no demur to the claim for an extra 33 per cent in wages, and that, entering *fully* into the spirit of the thing, they freely offer a rise of 40 per cent, back-dated to the passage of *the Local Government* Act 1933. (Mr Michael Foot: "This is well within the terms *of the social contract.*")

Now I have it on the authority of no less a figure than Dr John Yudkin, Emeritus Professor of Nutrition in the Uni*versity of London,* that a diet confined exclusively to liquorice allsorts is insufficient *to sustain life* for long, and that even before death supervenes, a number of very unpleasant deficiency diseases *are likely to make themselves* felt. So Mr Fisher must answer this question: if the local authorities who employ his members become, in time, literally unable to pay any wages because they have no *money,* and the *Government* steps in to pay those wages in money which will buy nothing, *is it* not possible that, after all, Tuesday *does come before* Wednesday in any one week, that there is salt in the sea, *and* that the only man who ever managed to make the sun stand still was King Joshua, who had support from a source *considerably more powerful* than the TUC?

Walking calmly to the exit

Nobody is asking the National Union of Public Employees to abate their demands for the country's sake, and nobody *expects them to do so.* After all, Mr Gormley, for the miners, has just said in so many words that he and his members do not mind who gets hurt provided *they* get money. Very well: it is to nobody's *interest* to shout "Fire!" *in a* crowded theatre, but once somebody has done so it is to everybody's interest to get out as quickly as possible. But the analogy is horribly exact, for if, in a burning building, everybody walks *calmly* to the exit, without pushing or kicking or trampling on others, all will be safe, even if singed. But if a *stampede takes place,* nobody will get out alive. It is perfectly possible to make water *flow uphill for a short* distance and for a short time: but not far and not for long. What shall it profit the National Union of *Public Employees* if the loud mouth of their leader shall next week increase *their wages by 33 per cent,* and next month gain *a promise* of continued employment for *all of them, if* by next *winter* half of them would be glad to have any wages at all, and the other half would be glad if the wages they do have will buy anything that they can eat or wear or warm themselves at?

Lord Hailsham concludes his examination of Parliament and the law

The case for a new, written constitution

It would be desirable to limit the rights of one group holding the rest to ransom over wage claims

As has been seen, the real barrier to comprehensive constitutional change lies in the theory *of parliamentary sovereignty* itself.

If Parliament can by Act of Parliament, grant a new con*stitution there is no reason why* a successor Parliament should not withdraw it, modify it, or proceed to legislate in terms *inconsistent with it. Countries* with "written" constitutions with entrenched provisions have secured them by means of some discontinuity with the past, either by successful revolution, as with the United States, or the successive French Repub*lics: or, as in* the case of India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and all subsequent enfranchised ex-colonies, by a grant by the *colonial* power, followed by the colonial power divesting itself of sovereignty and leaving the new nation to govern itself as a *separate entity recognized* in international law.

The problem is whether, if it should be found otherwise desirable, it would be *possible to* create such a discontinuity artificially so that Parliament could divest *itself of its* absolute sovereignty without leaving it open to a subsequent Parliament to recall it.

At first sight, and given the constitutional assumptions which have now crystallized, the *answer must be "no"*—at least in theory. But, as Lord Justice Scarman pointed out in *his Hamlyn lectures,* this would not always have been the case. So long as the constitutional struggle was against the power of the *Crown, it is clear* that Parliament itself *maintained* a different theory, or it would not have passed the Bill of Rights or the Act of Settlement, and, on an earlier view of the sanctity and immutability of *natural* law the *courts themselves* would not have hesitated to challenge the validity of individual pieces of legislation.

The trouble is that both these features of our constitutional history were based on assumptions in political thinking which are *now* approximately as *dead as the dodo.* Since the last war—or rather since the end of the First World War—there has been a tendency *for Parliament to limit its* jurisdiction externally, and even to give the English and Scottish courts a limited jurisdiction to enforce foreign laws. (Apart from the EEC legislation, the legislation providing for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitration *awards are examples of* this.)

But there has been no comparable move to limit the *jurisdiction of* Parliament internally, except for the ill-starred, and now unhappily defunct, Government of Ireland Act 1920, where for 50 years Parliament imposed on itself a self-denying ordinance precluding legislation on delegated matters, a limitation which would, of course, have been unenforceable in the courts.

In order to imagine a situation in which Parliament took the decisive step of limiting its own sovereignty in such a way as to prevent resumption except in time of war, it would be necessary to assume a political crisis far more serious than anything which has faced us hitherto—far more serious indeed than anything which has happened since the General Strike of 1926. It would be necessary to assume a crisis—or perhaps a series of crises—in which it became apparent that the established machinery of government had completely broken down.

However, since the miners' strike of 1972, I myself find it impossible to deny that such *a crisis or series of crises may* even be in the offing. There seems to me to be at least three major questions which may prove impossible to solve on the established assumptions of parliamentary supremacy.

The *first of these is* the inability of Parliament to cope with the ability of relatively small groups especially in the nationalized industries to extort virtually everything it wishes to demand by bringing, or threatening to bring, the whole structure of civilized life *to a standstill, either nationally* or in a local community. To my mind this is by far the most potent factor in our current *inflation.*

The second of these is the failure of Parliament to meet the legitimate requirements for local democracy in Scotland and Wales, and, it may be, in the *English* regions. So long as the business of government was as severely limited as it was before 1939, these feelings *of local frustration, even when* based on a regional nationalism, were dormant, indeed had *no effective* popular appeal. But the business of government is now so all-embracing, and the power of the individual or the local community so small in relation to it, that separatist tendencies seem to me to com*mand a support quite dispro*portionate to their real merits.

This brings me to the third, and it may be the most important, of the three questions, the inability of Parliament to respond to the need to protect the individual or minority or individual groups against decisions of the executive.

Given that these questions are unresolved and given economic conditions likely to create an almost revolutionary situation, it does not seem to me to be impossible any longer to disregard a constitutional change of a more comprehensive kind than has been seen since the Hanoverian succession, and it becomes incumbent on *those who* believe in constitutional continuity to seek to devise a scenario which could create such changes without resort to *force,* and without over-turning the fundamental institutions of the realm, by which I mean, the *Crown, a bicameral legislature* and an independent judiciary.

Obviously, the instrument by which such a change is effective would have to be an Act of the Sovereign Parliament itself. But it is clear that no such Act could be passed without *a great deal of* preliminary work both inside and outside the parliamentary structure, and possibly extending *over more Parliaments* than one.

The first, and it seems to me the essential *condition of such* a change is the recognition by one of the great political parties, I would hope more than one, of the need for constitutional change on the scale I am envisaging and the embodiment of *some proposals to this effect* in their political programmes.

There was a moment during the 1966 Parliament at which Mr Wilson's Government seemed about to envisage the possibility. This was when it appointed *the* Crowther (later the Kilbrandon) Commission. But the terms of reference of that Commission were unduly restricted, and its proposals limited to the provision of an anomalous constitution for Scotland and Wales. To my mind, only an approach to the whole of the United Kingdom would be adequate to produce a result *comparable* with the need.

The need so envisaged is for nothing short of a written con*stitution for the United King*dom to which I would hope, the Channel Islands and Isle of Man might be prepared in some measure to adhere, though this adherence would not be necessary to its success.

Under the constitution, the legislative power of Parliament would be *divided* and *restricted* on terms not very different from that in fact accorded to Ulster for 50 years under the Act of 1920, but entrenched by the provision of a legal and judicial machinery adequate to enforce devolution.

The rights of the individual and the minority group would have to be protected by entrenched provisions both against local and national *authority,* and the right of Parliament to amend the constitution or override the provincial legislatures on matters within their devolved authority would have to be limited and defined.

Excellent as the present House of Lords is in many ways it would need to be replaced by an elected body representing regional or provincial units, and such a body would have to have extended power effectively to limit attacks on human rights or provincial autonomy. The existing structure of Crown Cabinet Government at *the centre* and a bicameral legislature would be retained.

The electoral law would be for discussion. There would be a strong bias against monopolies extending nationally in the industrial field, and in the public sector regionalization would be preferred unless strong operational reasons made a nationally owned monopoly essential. The whole edifice would have to be crowned a[…] the law enforced by a Consti[…] tional Court with separate di[…] *sions for the different* portic[…] of the realm and ultim[…] appeal to whatever replaces […] Appellate Committee of […] present *House of Lords.*

It is also desirable that c[…] stitution contained some pr[…] sion limiting the rights […] groups within the public sec[…] *to hold the rest of the* c[…] munity to ransom in order […] enforce industrial claims.

There would have to be le[…] lation *in two stages.* The f[…] would be for the creation o[…] commission with terms of re[…] ence to take evidence and h[…] consultations on the wic[…] scale and to make a prelimin[…] draft constitution in deliver[…] its report which, in the f[…] place, should be in the form […] a Working Paper.

There would then have to […] an interval for discussion, […] perhaps an opportunity for […] *commission* to draw up a […] vised report with a draft […] stitution in a final form.

Finally, there would have […] be an *Act of Parliament.* Lo[…] of the referendum procec[…] would no doubt see in the […] ject an opportunity for a re[…] endum as a step towards […] introduction of the Bill for […] Act to give it greater autho[…] when passed.

The Act would have to […] tain special procedures […] and above the *enactment* o[…] ordinary Act of Parliament […] the amendment of the Cons[…] tional Act. It would visu[…] the whole project taking a […] mum of five and, it is to […] hoped, a maximum of ten y[…] from its inception to its […] clusion.

At the close of play […] should retain our traditi[…] *institutions* of the Quee[…] Parliament, but in a new f[…] with the peculiar characteri[…] of a written constitution.

Why Labour's attitude to Israel irritates the Arabs

The attitude of the British Labour Party to the Middle East *conflict* has long perplexed and irritated Arab *socialists.* For them it is as self-evident that Israel is a settler community, comparable to Rhodesia, as it is that the Labour Party represents the anti-imperialist *side* in British politics. Why then, they ask, has the Labour Party so often, and especially since 1967, *shown itself more sympathetic* to Israel and less friendly to the Arabs than the Conservatives?

The question is constantly put to British visitors in Arab countries, and no doubt put with special insistence to visiting Labour MPs—most of whom, *in the nature of things, come from the minority in the* party which disagrees with the general trend. It was this minority which in 1969 formed the Labour Middle east Council (LMEC). Its chairman, David Watkins, MP, has set out *to answer the awkward question* of his Arab friends in a pamplet published today*, which attempts in 30 pages to trace this history of *Labour's involve*ment with Zionism.

Shortage of space has obliged him to treat his material very selectively, and he has perhaps concentrated too much on the period before 1948. *He deals in some detail* with Mr Sidney Webb's attempt, as Colonial Secretary in 1929-31, to protect the rights of the Palestinian Arab population; and describes how this was foiled by an intensive Zionist campaign in which Mr Harold Laski played an important part. He also has a lot to say about the hate campaign against Mr Ernest Bevin in 1945-48, but disappointingly little about what Bevin's approach to *the Palestine* problem really was, who in the Labour Party supported him, or how far *Zionist* pressure succeeded in modifying his policy.

On the 1956 crisis, he confines himself to the statement that "Labour resolutely opposed the Suez war", without examining the attitudes of different people in the party towards Israel's role in that war.

When he comes to the events of 1967 and after, he devotes more space to recapitulating Israel's misdeeds and mistakes and their effect on world opinion than to isolating specific factors which affected opinion within the Labour Party. Thus the overall impression is of a party "infiltrated" by Zionism in its early years (an *unnecessarily loaded* word for the affiliation sought and obtained quite openly by Poale Zion in 1920—one might as well say that Labour was "infiltrated" by the cooperative movement) and only now *begining* to be emancipated from its influence.

The reality is surely more complex. A clearer distinction needs to be drawn between attitudes before and after 1948. Before 1948 it made some sense to describe a British politician as pro- or anti-Zionist, for Zionism then was a political movement seeking to influence British policy in order to achieve its aim of a Jewish state in a territory then under British mandate. It did *obtain a great deal of support* in Britain, especially in the 1940s because of the feelings of compassion and guilt aroused in the British public by the fate of the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe.

The Labour Party prided itself on being both compassionate and anti-fascist, and relatively few of its members were *well-informed* about events and attitudes in the Middle East. Its support for Zionism is therefore not particularly surprising, and certainly not exclusively attributable to the influence of the Zionist labour movement (Poale Zion) within the party. Moreover it can hardly be denied that in spite of all these factors the 1945 Labour Government was more resistant to Zionism in practice than any *other* British *government* before or since.

Since 1948, however, the problem has taken on a quite different aspect. On the one hand Britain is no longer directly responsible for the affairs of Palestine. *On the other,* there is a state of Israel, with which since 1950 Britain has had full *diplomatic relations.* So far as I know no "anti-Zionist" Labour MP advocates that Britain should attempt to abolish this state or even sever diplomatic relations with it.

In a sense, therefore, "we are all Zionists now". The problem is not whether the Jewish state should continue to exist, but whether support for its existence entails support for its government's policies. The phenomenon which needs explaining is the large number of people in the Labour Party who apparently believe that it does. Again it seems unlikely that the key factor is the influence of Poale Zion, a body which recruits only Jews and whose specifically Zionist ideology seems irrelevant even to some Jewish Labour MPs, especially those of the younger generation.

Much larger, and more influential in the PLP is Labour Friends of Israel, to which many *non-Jewish* as well as Jewish MPs belong. Why? In many cases because they have been to Israel, had personal contacts with the Labour Party there, and have found its ideology and atmosphere congenial.

Again, why? Precisely because Israel, and especially the Israeli labour movement, is in many respects a western society, *sharing western political traditions,* a western lifestyle and something like a western standard of living. In the Arab world there are not always such easy short cuts to mutual understanding.

In any case most Labour MPs, especially before 1967, had no contact with the Arab world, whereas they were almost bound sooner or later to have some contact with the Israel Labour Party. Mr Watkins mentions that Poale Zion was three times refused affiliation to the pre-1914 Socialist International. But surprisingly he says nothing about the Israel Labour Party's membership of the present day Socialist International, which has surely been very important—both positively, in facilitating contacts between Israel and European socialists, and negatively, because Arab socialist parties felt unable to join an international in which the ruling party of Israel was a full member.

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Edward Mortimer

Tea and little sympathy for the pickers in Ceylon

Writing in 1900 about the notorious "lines" on Ceylonese tea estates, H. W. Cave said: "Each compartment accommodates about four coolies, and it is obvious that they do *not* enjoy the luxury of much space. But their ideals of comfort are not ours, and they are better pleased to live huddled together upon the mud floors of these tiny hovels, than to occupy superior appartments."

Sentiments such as these made it possible for the conditions described in the MPs' report last week to be perpetuated for nearly a century, virtually unchanged.

As a working system, the tea estate is one of the most inhuman ever devised. It is a sort of "total institution", like jail or mental hospital, where people are born, educated, work, live, marry and die within perpetual sight of the crop that is their livelihood and their torment. Daily existence is as regimented as an army camp, with a muster before breakfast and, three times a day, queueing *to have the plucked leaves* weighed.

The facts of housing are by now well known: 90 per cent of the estate workers live in rows of cells, usually 10 feet by 12, known as lines; 46 per cent of them live in suffocating back-to-back lines, with *no* windows at all in the cramped inner room. Three quarters of the dwellings are less than 250 square feet, and half of them have only one room.

Television's *World in Action* programme recently selected the most cramped and squalid examples. In practice, conditions vary tremendously.

The worst hovels I saw, on a tour of British, state owned and cooperative estates this month, were at Wakhanduwa, a collective estate taken over by the land reform from a Ceylonese: on one line, about 100 people lived back to back in just 16 rooms, 10 feet by 8, which had to house the smoky kitchen fires too. The clogged latrines were 50 yards away up a leech ridden path.

Most families I met at practically no protein, and were spending their entire income on food (though 60 per cent even of the average *Ceylon* family's expenditure goes on food). At Langdale estate, belonging to the Bearwell group, Puriana Supaya, aged 37, *showed* me what *his* wife and three young children had for their meals: in the morning, a small piece of unleavened *bread* for each person, in eveing plain rice with, on special occasions, a vegetable curry.

Once again, the *burden* of poverty is uneven. It weighs hardest on families with children too young to work, and on the weak and the sick. In Kandy general hospital I saw a girl of 13 dying of advanced protein calorie malnutrition. She had had no solid food for three weeks, and had only a few days to live. Her father was dead and her mother crippled. An extreme case but there is no denying that estate health is worse than in the rest of the island. Death rates shot up from 11 per 1,000 in 1973 to 18.7 per 1,000 in 1974.

The most common causes of death among adults are anaemia (due to a poor diet); chest diseases (labourers work outdoors even in heavy rain); and enteric diseases. These conditions are found on British estates, state *plantations, co-ops* and Ceylonese owned estates alike.

The picture is not quite so uniformly bleak as Granada would have us believe. But it is bleak enough.

Would *it* help *if* we paid more for our tea? Brooke Bond, as an internal exercise, calculated that an increase of 6p on the British price of a pound of tea could double the estate wages—but only on the assumption that all Ceylon's tea came here, and that the whole increase was passed on to the workers. In reality, Britain's share of Ceylon's tea exports is now less than *16 per* cent. The Arab countries now take more than we do, and Pakistan alone, with 15 per cent last year, is rapidly rising to outstrip us. The prospect of getting the Sindhi or Baluchi peasant to pay *more* for *his* tea so wages in Ceylon can rise, seems remote indeed.

Largely unnoticed in Britain, the Ceylon Government published, at the end of last month, the report of an official commission on agency houses. Most British-o[…] estates are managed by […] largely *British-run firms* […] grow, sell, buy, blend, […] and export tea on beha[…] their clients. Agenc[…] estates *produce* 62 *per* ce[…] the tea in Ceylon. In […] the socialist United […] parties, now in power, pron[…] *in their election manifest*[…] "control the agency houses[…]

The commission's report […] firmed the picture of […] health, housing and educa[…] It also found that less […] half the agency run es[…] were being run on sound […] cultural principles.

Under the terms of […] report, most British ow[…] will be owners in name a[…] powerless to act. Inevit[…] they will be forced to sell, […] depressed market, to the […] *buyer on the scene: the* C[…] government. Henry de Mon[…] chairman of Harrisons and […] fields, one of the leading ag[…] *houses, has no doubt the* re[…] will be implemented and ca[…] "virtually the end of Br[…] interests in Ceylon".

There are *certainly* ad[…] tages for Ceylon in t[…] this course. Tea is a very […] peramental commodity. […] tween 1972 and 1974 the […] rose from 1.90 rupees a p[…] to 2.64. Ceylon earned […] foreign exchange though […] production had fallen. But […] has just not kept pace with […] rise in world prices genera[…] it was 2.61 a pound way […] in 1954.

The future for Ceylon […] the Marxist Minister for […] tations Dr Colvin de Silva, […] me, lies in increasing tea […] ductivity by a heavy […] gramme of replanting; […] converting *much* tea acreag[…] the production of fruit […] vegetables, rice or dairy f[…] ing so as to reduce […] country's chronic *depend*[…] on imported food.

The British Governm[…] *could help,* with technical […] material aid to help Ce[…] become self-sufficient in f[…] But the main ball is […] firmly in Ceylon's c[…] Fortunately, there *is* e[…] sign that they intend to […] it, and that they will no lo[…] allow the distressing condit[…] on the tea estates to continu[…]

Paul Harris

The Times Diary

Everything in the garden is lovely

Gardeners say that, if the sun *shines on the press day of the* Chelsea Flower Show, it will stay fine until September. Moreover, the cost of living will decrease, *the pound will rise on* the foreign exchange markets, England will win the Ashes and the referendum will result in a massive victory *for the forces* of good.

We are therefore in for a splendid summer. So magnificent a day was it in *London* yesterday that I walked three miles or so through rustic Nine Elms and Battersea to the Royal Hospital, where exhibitors were working in their *shirtsleeves to* prepare for the first (members only) day tomorrow.

The comforting thing about the Chelsea show *is that,* from year to year, nothing much changes. Enterprising exhibitors still bring in glamorous show-business women to get *photographs of* their stands in the newspapers.

Nana Mouskoiri, the Greek singer, was there having a white floribunda *rose* named after her because one of her best known songs was called *The White Rose of Athens*). Susan Hampshire, who had a rose named after her last year, was this year being photographed gazing *at plants in a greenhouse,* to promote "a remarkable breakthrough in greenhouse design".

From year to year, too, exhibitors complain about the climatic conditions which made *it hard to bring their exhibits to a proper state for the show.* The notes given *to* reporters are full of apologies about things that are not quite as they should have been.

Begonia enthusiasts will be disappointed at the non-appearance of two new varieties from Blackmoor and Langdon of *Bristol. The weather delayed* their planting for a fortnight and they will not be ready until next week. Two rose growers *and a sweet pea specialist were* forced to pull out entirely.

The note on the exhibit of Mrs Desmond Underwood of *Colchester is desperately poignant:* "With the warm January and February everything was ahead of station, but with the cold of March, all growth seemed to cease. Then a sudden warmth caused bolting and her *pinks* have needed refrigerating."

I went to Mrs Underwood's stand to discuss this drama with Peter Fenn, *her manager.* Fenn has been exhibiting at Chelsea for more than 30 years and views it all philosophically. "You always have trouble", he said, firming the compost around some pretty rock plants.

On the stand of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, *a dozen or so* women and one or two men were creating an ambitious display, using basic flower arranging techniques (*short ones at the* front, tall ones at the back). The theme is historical, representing periods from ancient Egypt, *through Byzantium and* the Georgian era to the present day. "Such a remarkable exhibit", says the press notice, "as far as is *known,* never before has been seen", and I can easily believe it.

Because of rising food prices, this is supposed *to* be the year of self-sufficiency, of growing your own food and vegetables (and regular readers will know I am trying to do just that). Yet vegetables impinge only slightly. One exhibit which is *supposed to show how* decorative a vegetable garden can be shows only that vegetables grown in straight lines look like *vegetables grown in* straight lines, in spite of attempts at embellishment by miniature topiary.

The best way to display vegetables remains to pick them and make montages out of them. The National Farmers Union has done great things along those lines, with *marvellous* heaps of cauliflowers, spring onions, radishes and rhubarb, so impressive that I saw the man in charge being interviewed by a reporter from a BBC arts programme.

Lord Aberconway, President of the Royal Horticultural Society, gave substance to the theme of changelessness by *making* much the same speech he makes most years. Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, made a joke about football—which seems to be compulsory for members of this Cabinet—and recited a strangely rude limerick about a woman who ran off with a Saracen.

I *have* always thought that horticulturists are among the most cordial people anywhere, and this view was supported when Aberconway thanked reporters for attending the function, and the lunch guests *applauded. In my many years* in this business, I cannot recall the press ever having been applauded for anything. *My sense of well-being* was complete.

Two random statistics from the Chelsea show. "Every minute 14 acres of rain forest are being lost", which is probably true but not of much interest. And "it is estimated between 60 and 70 per cent of domestic grasscutting is now undertaken by women", which is interesting but probably untrue.

Cheap

Lambeth Council's Consumer Advice Centre in Brixton entertained four people to a cut price lunch yesterday. The parsimonious hospitality was to launch a new service to the *public,* the *fortnightly* publication of "purse-stretcher menus" to help local housewives fight inflation and feed the family an easy and balanced meal for four for less than £1.

The service is the idea of one of the staff, Jenni Morley, who devised the menu and did the cooking yesterday. She served up meatballs with sweet and sour vegetables and buttered noodles, followed by chocolate mousse. The chairman of Lambeth consumer services committee, who was one of her guests, pronounced it excellent and filling.

A representative of Age Concern agreed but thought the chocolate mousse a bit luxurious. Some pensioners would not be able to whisk up the eggs.

Louise Davies, the food values consultant from the Department of *Prices,* said the meal could have been cheaper still: "The recipe uses carrots and celery, which are between *seasons* and are rather expensive at the moment. And as most of us are not on new potatoes yet I would rather have had *vitamin C than* chocolate in the dessert."

Like the others Pat Carroll, a local mother of two, pronounced herself delightfully satiated, but she too had reservations. "I think my husband would just about eat the meatballs", she said doubtfully, "but I do not think the boys would touch any of it. Any normal children would love it, but mine won't even eat hamburgers, fish fingers or baked beans". She would have *to go on filling them up* with wholemeal bread, home-made marmalade and fresh fruit, whatever the Consumer Advice Centre said.

Queer stuff

Doron Abrahami *began* his film career as an official Israeli Army cameraman during the Yom Kippur war. Now at the Royal College of Art's film and television school in London, he has just completed a 45-minute documentary about the meths drinkers of the East End.

At *its premiere* at a London trade cinema yesterday, visitors were handed bottles of the pale purple poison in place of the usual gins and tonics.

It took Abrahami two years to win sufficient trust from the dossers to persuade them to tell their own story on the film. The result, made in black and white, is raw and highly revealing.

The *star is* Benny, who […] of his descent to the botto[…] the social ladder with sur[…] ing articulation. The film e[…] with his rescue in a Metho[…] Mission hostel in Stepney, c[…] shaven and working for the f[…] time in years. Benny sho[…] have been at the premiere, […] he is serving a jail senten[…] having returned to "the qu[…] stuff" after three months […] sobriety.

The Rev Ronald Gibbins, w[…] heads the Methodist Miss[…] which sponsored the film, […] vealed afterwards that nea[…] three-quarters of all alcoh[…] dossers in London are Ce[…] mainly Scots with a smatter[…] of Irish and Welsh. Appare[…] it has something to do with […] innate romanticism of the r[…] which in times of advers[…] drives them to seek solace […] drink, when the Anglo-Sax[…] would merely stiffen his upp[…] lip.

Chief information officers […] the nationalized industries […] together every three months […] chew over common problem[…] like what to do when the […] chairman is hauled over […] coals by the Industry Sec[…] tary. They have been join[…] at their recent gatherings […] Ronald Allison, press officer […] the oldest of our state indu[…] tries, Buckingham Palace.

PHS

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ısions and retirement

a Special Report to mark the National Association of Pension Funds' annual conference which opens tomorrow

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There are many who feel that the average figure itself should be greater. The Confederation of British Industry *called* for it to be 8 per cent; a summary of the Bill produced by Harris Graham & Partners showed that contracting-out was *not financially worth while* in respect of women and for men only where they were under 25 and earning £3,200 a year (there will not be too many occupational pension schemes with this sort of membership). In a booklet issued by Noble Lowndes & Partners a fear was expressed that many companies *may find* themselves under pressure to contract-out because of the unfavourable tax treatment of employee contributions to the state scheme—where *they would otherwise be ill*-advised, financially, to do so.

Add to this the problems caused by the "alternative test" for contracting out. A benefit must be provided equal to an eightieth of final reckonable earnings for each year of scheme service (it is not even clear at the moment that the calculation starts only at the point of contracting-out), or an eightieth of average reckonable earnings for each year of scheme service uplifted against an earnings index, provided that the *benefit is at least an amount* equivalent to the amount which would have been earned had the employee not *been contracted-out* (ignoring the best 20-year rule). This is known as the guaranteed minimum benefit.

It will be seen that the dangers of runaway inflation without a commensurate investment return are enough to deter all but the most determined trustees. As the Government has asked the government actuary to assume a positive rate of return on investments of 1 per cent a year the idea has been suggested that the Government should make available an index-linked bond which would do exactly that and make it available to trustees at least up to the level of their contracted-out liabilities.

At the start of the scheme there will be no problem of past service benefits. On the contrary, past service benefits already built up may count towards the guaranteed minimum benefit. But as the years go by any failure to meet any of the government actuary's assumptions in a contracted-out scheme will build up into a past service "drag". The situation would be analogous to offering a drowning man more and more thick woollen sweaters to wear.

So we come to the second transformation scene: contracted out schemes will have the choice of providing (as in the White Paper) escala*tion of the deferred benefits* of leavers in line with the wages index or (improvement?) escalation at the rate of 5 per cent a year, plus a cash payment to the state scheme in order to provide, presumably, the other 3 per cent a year assumed by the government actuary.

To have increased deferred pensions in line with earnings would have been an insurable risk and no prudent trustee could have exposed a private fund to this condition. Leaving aside the very *real psychological bias* in favour of those who stay until normal retirement date and against the early leaver, there are a number of financial facts to be considered.

First, once an employee has left an employment no further contributions are generated in respect of him; the buoyancy of this new money which has been the strength of occupational pension funds, is not present in such cases. (The same situation is true where a whole scheme is wound up, may be because the sponsoring company can no longer support the scheme.)

Second, increases in the *earnings index* at a rate greater than that assumed by the Government Actuary could mean, in the ultimate analysis, that *the benefits of* full-service members would have to be reduced to accommodate increases in the benefits of short-service leavers. (This is particularly so if the scheme is wound-up and/or the sponsoring company is in financial difficulties.)

Third, it has been variously estimated how many jobs an employee may have in a full career; four would seem to be a reasonable guess. This would mean that by the time the Social Security Pensions Act came into full force the average contracted-out scheme would have twice as many deferred pensioners as members.

The whole problem of leavers is compounded by the interpretation by the Occupational Pensions Board that the Social Security Act 1973 requires a leaver to be credited with the proportion of pension which his actual years of service bear to the number of years he would have served by normal retirement date. That is, an employee leaving a company after five years, 25 years be*fore his normal retirement* date, would need to be granted a deferred pension of five thirtieths of the pension he would have earned at normal retirement date. In a scheme offering a better fraction than one sixtieth for each year of service this would be more than an employee with five years' service who stays with his employer and retires at normal retirement date.

There were several important questions raised on the White Paper which were either not dealt with in the Bill or, worse still, were the subject of what were described as "improvements". Perhaps the most important of these questions was that of flexibility in connexion with the disposal of death benefits. Particularly for a small scheme with only simple administrative arrangements, it has been regarded as *more practical to pay a* lump-sum death benefit, of perhaps a year's earnings, rather than identify depen*dants and then pay pensions* to them.

Larger schemes, with more complex administrations, may have dependants' pensions with the trustees exercising their discretion as to who the dependants are. It will not always be the legal widow; consider the case where she deserted her family many years before the member's death and the member had eventually created a new home with a *common-law* wife and perhaps a second young family. Under the Bill the trustees would be bound to seek out and pay the legal wife and could not use the contracted-out benefit to pay the real dependants.

The Bill does have an error in it, and I have been assured by the Minister that it is unintentional. It states that a pension must be provided for a widow equal to one half the member's pension, whereas the White Paper stated (and the intention is) that it should be one half of the guaranteed minimum pension. Mrs Castle confirmed this (Hansard March 18, 1975, column 1497).

After fiddling about for a decade and a half, the *plan* is that the Bill should be rushed through and the regulations issued before the end of the year. It has been suggested that the starting date should be in April, 1977. This would be only a year or so after the complete facts are known. There is no doubt that this would lead to a chaotic situation or there would be little contracting-out in the private sector. This is because administrators of schemes would find it physically impossible to go through the necessary, time-consuming hoops. (The Social Security Act 1973 preservation requirements have not yet been embodied in more than a handful of scheme rules and yet the provision came into force on April 6, 1975).

The occupational pension fund movement has maintained a forward-looking view for half a century and the Government would be better advised to encourage benefit improvements and extension of membership in a realistic way rather than *force through a take it or* leave it Social Security Pensions Act which would require a complete indexing of contracted-out benefits just at a time when inflation has reached a dangerously high level.

Let us have more people on stage (perhaps at the outset with not too many lines) rather than see the safety curtain come down pronouncing an end of the show.

The occupational pensions *movement*, the most important element of which is the members themselves, regard the exercise of the trustees' discretion as extremely important. In 85 per cent of cases where there is a standard family situation, that discretion is exercised in favour of the widow (and children, where appropriate) payable as the circumstances demand as a cash payment, a pension or a combination of these methods. In the other 15 per cent of cases there will be no widow or the legal widow may not be dependent, or she may be only one of two or more people dependent on the member.

Charles Trusler

Partnership a way to reform

by Derek Fellows
group pensions manager,
Prudential Assurance
Company

Provision of retirement benefits through occupational schemes is much more extensive in the United Kingdom than in most other EEC countries. In those countries state pensions have a more important role to play. Notwithstanding the wide coverage achieved by occupational *schemes in the United Kingdom* a significant minority of pensioners has to rely on supplementary means-tested benefits and a similar situation is likely to persist in the future unless some material changes in state benefits, and costs, are introduced.

How to make such changes without seriously encroaching on occupational *schemes and on the facility* for investment which they create has been a dilemma facing successive governments over many years. The various plans which have been tabled for pensions reform have attempted to solve the problem on a partnership basis by allowing a facility which, with few exceptions, is not permitted in other countries, namely an opportunity for occupational schemes meeting certain minimum standards to contract-out of at least part *of the state benefits.*

The recent Social Security Pensions Bill allows for contracting-out in respect of *the new earnings-related* "additional component" of state pensions. The main benefit requirements for contracting-out purposes are that the occupational pension, from age 65 for men and 60 for women, must be based on final salary (or, as an alternative, average salary revalued in line with the growth of earnings generally) at the rate of at least 1.25 per cent of pensionable salary for each year of service; also that the scheme must provide a guaranteed minimum pension (gmp) to a member which represents approximately the additional component the member would have earned in the state scheme if not contracted out (which component will reach the full rate of 25 per cent of relevant average earnings after 20 years). In addition the occupational scheme will have to provide a widow's pension of half of the pension earned by her husband (other benefits to a widow being paid by the state).

The Government will not require contracted-out *schemes to provide inflation* proofing of pensions once they become payable and increases in state pensions for each person will be calculated on the total pension that would have been payable if the employee concerned had not been contracted-out. The main difficulty for occupational schemes therefore concerns inflation proofing before retirement. For employees who leave service within five years there is to be a "buying back" facility into *the state scheme as an alter*native to preservation in the contracted-out scheme or transfer to another contracted-out scheme.

But for longer service leavers the pension must be preserved through a contracted-out scheme and revalued until pension age in line with the movement of earnings generally. Bearing in mind that the cost of inflation proofing for preserved pensions could become an intolerable burden to an employer, for example *if his business were to run* down, and that the security of the benefits for those still in service and even the sol*vency* of the employer could be jeopardized, the need for an escape route was emphasized by the pensions industry in the discussions on the White Paper *Better Pensions*.

In the event, the Bill includes a provision whereby schemes will have the option of limiting their maximum liability for revaluing the gmp's of early leavers to 5 per cent for each year, subject to the employer making a once-for-all payment to the state scheme when an employee leaves. The state will then provide any balance of inflation-proofing. But further modification of the details of this arrangement may be pursued during the committee stage of the Bill.

On a wider front, recent levels of salary inflation, without accompanying real rates of return on investments, *have led to a grow*ing apprehension whether employers should take on an unlimited liability for future salary *increases for* any employees—including those remaining in service—in respect of contracted-out *benefits. This is against the* background that, understandably, there must be adequate security for gmp's and that operating a final salary type scheme will have more serious implications if it is contracted-out than if it is not.

In particular, the Occupational Pensions Board will have to be satisfied that contracted-out schemes have sufficient resources to meet all claims for gmp's and, if necessary, to buy back all members into the state *scheme. The need for some* form of upper limit on the revaluation liability, so as to eliminate the more extreme financial risks to an employer has been increasingly urged recently, and is likely to be raised during the committee discussions.

There is also a difficult area in deciding on equitable contribution rates to be payable to the state scheme *in respect of con*tracted-out employees. The problem arises because state benefits, unlike funded *occupational schemes*, are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis so that, broadly speaking, the contributions by today's workforce are used to pay for today's benefits to retirement pensioners and others.

The effect of a reduced contribution in any year to those who contract-out throws an extra cost on the rest of the contributors, though in the *longer run* the benefits due from the state will be lower when today's contracted-out *contributors themselves retire* and the result may be more equality of cost between the different generations. So *from the Government's* point of view there is a delicate balance to be drawn between the needs of the state system and of funded occupational schemes.

In the Bill the Government proposes to allow an initial contribution reduction to contracted-out schemes of 7 per cent of the relevant earnings (which are between about £600 and £4,200 a year in 1975 terms); of this 4.5 per cent would apply to employers' and 2.5 per cent to employees' contributions.

The net effect of a 7 per

continued on page IV

S ympath
in Cevl

A cushion after working days

by K. G. Weir
deputy chairman, Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (*Life and Pensions*)

Few people in the business community can have been *more adversely* affected by recent changes in the tax laws and national insurance arrangements than the self-employed. How necessary it is, therefore, for these people, and those in the proprietor category generally, to reappraise their financial position and in particular the adequacy of the *provision* they are making for their retirement and for their dependants.

It was the Finance Act 1956 which gave the self-employed, controlling directors and those not in pensionable employment the opportunity for the first time to set aside a proportion of their relevant earnings for *the specific purpose* of securing a pension and gain full tax and surtax (now higher rate tax) relief on their contributions. The sums so set aside had to be applied to a pension contract or other fund acceptable *to the Inland Revenue*, which in turn granted tax-exempt status to the investments underlying the contract, which meant that contributions to these arrangements could accumulate free of all taxes. Furthermore, *the pension, which had to* begin between the ages 60 and 70, was to be treated as earned income for tax purposes.

In effect, the self-employed, partners and controlling directors were placed on the same footing as employees in membership of approved occupational pension schemes in terms of tax exemption on moneys they *set aside to provide super*annuation benefits. However, limits were placed on the amount of the annual contributions which could be applied for this purpose.

It is well known that the number of self-employed people who took immediate advantage of the 1956 Finance Act changes was disappointingly small, probably for two main reasons: (1) because the extent to which contracts issued under the Act could provide protection for widows and dependants was severely restricted; also *there was no option* available to the policy-holder to commute part of his pension at retirement for a tax-free lump sum; (2) because *of the natural reluctance* on the part of the type of individual involved to segregate any part of his *free* business assets by way of provision for his own retirement when such sums might well be required at a future date *to develop* the business.

The Finance Act 1971 very largely remedied the first of these drawbacks by extending approvable benefits for widows and by allowing the policy-holder to commute part of his own pension at retirement for cash. Also, to take cognizance of the general increase in earnings levels between 1956 and 1971, the 1971 Act increased the maximum contribution approvable for tax purposes in any year to £1,500, or 15 per cent of net relevant earnings for the year, whichever is the less.

For those born before 1916 the maximum *is* increased according to the year of birth; up to £2,000 or 20 per cent for those born in 1907 or earlier. Not unnaturally these changes had the effect of stimulating fresh interest in self-employed annuities and after 1971 more use was made by the self-employed, controlling directors and partners of *this particular facility*.

Because of the increased demand the insurance market has developed a wide variety of plans all taking full advantage of the tax provisions but offering different bases of investment to suit individual tastes. They range from the conven*tional profit-sharing* contracts, through equity, managed fund and unit trust-linked schemes to the latest plan which credits interest to contributions at a rate related to the interest rate on building society mort*gages*.

Perhaps, however, the introduction of the new capital transfer tax in the last Finance Act, with differential rates of tax for lifetime gifts and gifts arising on death, will have the effect of encouraging the self-employed, and entrepreneurs *generally, to change* their existing and understandable habit of keeping as much of their capital as possible within their own businesses and relying on this to look after their retirement and to protect their dependants on their death. If *so*, they should find the tax advantages of self-employed retirement annuities extremely attractive.

In late 1972 and early 1973 many *controlling* directors were persuaded to effect substantial whole-of-life insurance policies which, by virtue of a quirk in the law, enabled them to segregate substantial annual sums over *the following eight to* 10 years from the companies they controlled for the benefit of their own dependants. Such sums could not be set *against the company's profits* for corporation tax purposes but by placing these moneys in trust there was considered to be no liability for estate duty on the *proceeds of the* policy at the time when the policy-holder died.

The 1973 Finance Act largely removed the purpose of such arrangements (commonly referred to as *death-in-service policies*) *since* after the passing of this Act controlling directors could be included in their own company pension scheme or in an individual arrangement designed to cover their special needs. The cost of providing *pension and death* benefits for them under such arrangements within the normal limits set by the Inland Revenue were for the first time allowable as a business expense.

As an added attraction they could also *obtain the* advantage of tax-free cash on retirement. Tax exemption on benefits paid to dependants was assured, provided *those benefits* paid in lump-sum form did not exceed four times the salary.

As a result of the substitution of capital transfer tax for estate duty it is considered that it will now be necessary to review all existing *death-in-service* arrangements, other than those arising under "approved superannuation schemes".

Rules of the game unchanged

by C. K. R. Nunneley
director, Robert Fleming Holdings

"The game has changed" has become the most overworked phrase in the investment world, a convenient *way of summarizing* the confusion which most investors feel after the trials of the past three years. But the game has not changed, at least not yet, *because here* we all are still playing it. The pitch is wicked, the light is bad, the umpires are unpredictable, but the important rules which *have always* governed the investment game are no less valid than they were.

In such conditions one of the most important qualities is consistency. Of course, *it must* be right to be open-minded and fully conscious of change, and to adapt investment policy accordingly if necessary, but market *fashions* and movements must not be allowed to take precedence over well-defined longer-term *aims*. Although usually volatile markets tend to make investors think in terms of greater activity and more changes of policy, they should probably do the opposite.

It is difficult enough to adjust *sizable portfolios* to changing conditions when market movements last for several months; when the movements are accomplished *in weeks or even days*, portfolio reactions on any scale become impossible. It is then more important than ever to establish a sensible longer term policy within the framework of which short-term changes can play their proper role of refining, not distorting, the portfolio.

Like most investors, a pension fund is aiming for the maximum overall return, *capital growth and income* combined, after taking account of any taxes and other costs and after allowing for the varying degrees *of risk on different* investments. It is important to remember, first, that this bears no relation to the actuarial rate of return, which is an artificial figure, and, second, that any attempt to set a fixed target return is a mistake. Targets generally become unrealistic as conditions change, and a fund's only true target must be to earn as much as it can. That is rather easier to say than to do.

Granted that it is not possible in practice to rearrange a portfolio to suit every twist *and turn of the market*, the aim must be to concentrate investment in those areas which are likely to provide an above average return over a relatively long period. Then, partly by some switching between sectors and partly by deployment of the cash flow, it will certainly be possible to take advantage of short-term fluctuations to improve return.

It is a point sometimes missed by both trustees and managers that the choice of the broad areas in which the fund is invested has a much *greater* impact on performance than the choice of individual stocks. No manager of a large portfolio can honestly say that he expects to *beat the index consistently* by a large margin with his equity holdings; over the years he can build up a satisfactory credit balance in his favour by astute selection, but he will make his main impact on performance by the sensible reduction and expansion of his equity percentage at different stages of the market.

To this end the mai ance of *marketability* i portant. However long a fund's aims may be, highly desirable for it able to change directi necessary.

It is generally thoug be a good *principle* to sify a portfolio. That is in so far as diversificati used to reduce the risk to an acceptable level over-diversification ca harmful. Having too ma vestments, or a stake many markets, means l decision and control.

The largest funds difficulties here, becau them concentration loss of marketability terms of markets, diver tion overseas has clear tions for British investi a means of participat economies with growth *potential* tha own and in currencie firmly based than sterl there were no inve currency premium, ma sion funds, seekin greatest benefit for members, might reas have more of their as vested abroad th Britain; that is one why the premium is record levels.

However, it is som solation to reflect th liabilities of a Britis sion fund are all de ated in sterling, so th avoiding an exchang however small, whe *prevented* from in abroad. Besides, beca fortunes of British funds are inextricab to those of the Brit nomy and hence to th market, it is very that the funds can ma affect their *long-term* or escape the probl Britain, by investing

This theme of th *dependence* of all the private secto through all pension vestment thinking sent, and particularly the crucial whether to invest in (which in this bro nition includes prop in *fixed-interest sto* cluding cash). Unc related pressures of ment controls and ex ally high rates of i *the whole concept o* investment has been in question.

There are indeed p reasons to worry, bu *not be repeated to* that on the ability of ate profits, and he merely share pri match inflation re *whole* future of th economy of compan of their pension fu one believes in funds one must be equities. As far a interest stocks a cerned, they have *astrous long-term* ments for 30 years.

Clearly they cann being wrong for eve inflation is runni pletely out of con can say only that a must be sure that fixed-interest stoc give a real return longer term befor justified in comm fund to them. Until are changed so radic the game cannot be a stake in *real assets* equities and proper remain the classic a inflation.

There have alwa pension funds whic rather have a known *turn from fixed* stocks, even if it is the rate of inflatio must prove insuffic their needs, than ris certainties of equit ment. Whatever o think of the long-t nomic arguments f ties, that is a d as well as fai approach.

Spreading the investment net

by G. J. J. Dennis
senior investment manager, the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund

The pioneer on investment and diversification was undoubtedly Markowitz and since then there have been many who have followed in *his footsteps. Basically*, the investment manager spreads his investment net widely in order to diversify risk in relation to a predetermined rate of return.

It is well known that, by having different types of investment, the expected returns of which are unrelated, its variance, and hence the distortions to which it is subject, can be reduced.

The extent of the reduction in the portfolio variance depends on the degree to which the expected returns from the different investments selected vary one with another. Increasingly, however, the investment manager is faced with an increasing number of variables which cannot be quantitatively assessed, and the subjective element creeping into an *investment assessment* has undoubtedly tended to increase over the years.

The main areas for investment are: United Kingdom equities, United Kingdom fixed interest, overseas equities, overseas fixed interest, British property, overseas property, cash, and, more recently, objets d'art. It is important for the *British* investor to differentiate between United Kingdom and overseas investments because exchange control regulations *in Britain present an obstacle* to investing overseas which gives rise to additional considerations not faced by the investor concentrating solely *upon* Britain.

Most of these areas of investment tend to move out of phase and, by diversifying the portfolio to include different types of investment, the independent cycle in these different outlets tends to cancel out, with the result that the overall variance of *the portfolio is reduced*.

The pension fund investment manager is interested primarily in income flow, and at times this can be *boosted by capital profits*. However, if considerable trading in assets occurs, say in property, then the tax-free status of the fund may be in jeopardy. His objective must be to make a real return over and above the rate of inflation. At present this is difficult.

Consciously, the pension fund investment manager tries to evaluate the long-term *discounted* cash flow rate of return from any one type of investment. In the case of equities, for example, assuming that an equity *portfolio is in effect being* held to perpetuity, the long-term rate of return is given by the dividend yield together with the long-term *rate of growth* in dividends, although this rate of return can be improved by capital profits in the short term.

With the dividend yield on the *Financial Times* Actuaries about 5 per cent and assuming that the past 10-year historical growth rate in dividends of 5.5 per cent continues, the discounted cash flow (dcf) rate of return on equities in the absence of capital profits is a mere 12½ per cent, considerably beneath the present rate of inflation and certainly not as attractive as the likely dcf rate of return on property.

This illustrates another important point: for the pen*sion fund interested* primarily in income stream the investment manager must vary his emphasis in accordance with risk and reward. He faces a very dynamic situation and must always be prepared to be highly flexible.

A *rational approach to this* problem which enables emphasis to be changed rapidly, particularly for the fund with a high net cash flow, is to assess the expected long-term dcf rate of return from various types of investment *regularly and then to* allocate to each sector a weighting which reflects the degree of risk associated with each type of investment.

This *must include subjective* elements. For example, fixed interest will have a low risk but also a low rate of return relative to, say, *some* types of property investment where the dcf rate of return may be considerably *higher* but the risk element probably greater. Emphasis can be changed within the portfolio, although it is essential to ensure that the portfolio is still satisfactorily diversified to achieve a reasonable overall spread.

Overseas investments present a number of problems. The level of the premium at present is high and it is *difficult to justify using* this route. One important factor is the surrender penalties on the repatriation of sales proceeds.

The *investment manager* also has to contend with currency risks and exchange control risks when investing overseas. In the case of *long-term property* investments there are also refinancing risks to be considered and the possibility that tax regulations overseas may change adversely.

However, property investment overseas is still justifiable on a long-term rate of return basis, particularly in North America where yields are high and financing routes can guarantee a United Kingdom institution a positive rate of return from the outset on its investment.

Overseas portfolio investment through back-to-back loans (where a *foreign* currency borrowing is supported by a sterling deposit) or straightforward borrowings have attractions, particularly *when borrowing* costs are extremely low and the currency risk can be kept to a minimum by borrowing in the currency of the country in which it is intended to invest.

However, it is important to *consider the* "opportunity cost" of investing overseas. For example, a back-to-back loan will involve tying up sterling at a fixed rate for a given period in order to acquire an investment overseas. It may be possible to use the *sterling* more profitably within the United Kingdom without tying it down to a *back-to-back facility* and thereby improve the overall rate of return to the fund. The relative merits of overseas investments are clearly discernible when they are considered in relation to risk and reward in comparison *with United Kingdom* investments.

More recently we have seen funds investing in objets d'art as an outlet. This implies that the capital profit from objets d'art, when discounted back, will give a *higher* rate of return than most other available types of investment.

Objets d'art, in common with gold and other commodities, may *oscillate* violently in value in keeping with changes in taste and fashion and in accordance with economic fundamentals which affect *propensity* to consume and/or hoard.

However, an investment manager cannot take advantage of such oscillations by trading in objets *d'art* without jeopardizing the tax status of the fund. Such investments, therefore, cannot easily be justified for a fund that pays *no* tax *since*, even at the present time, long-term money can still earn rates in excess of 18 per cent.

A capital *sum invested* at this rate will double in just over four years. Objets d'art may achieve a similar long-term rate of return but the risk/reward ratio *implicit in* such investments must be considerably higher than an investment in a sound revenue-producing outlet with a yield of 18 per cent.

ath benefit scene still changing

ael Pilch
, Noble Lowndes
ers

it cost-effective part pension plan is not rement benefit but ection given to the and dependants of . The main justifica- channelling into pen- is money that would e be available for dividends to share- ies in the effect the on staff recruitment ation.

may be other good ical reasons for money on pensions, e plan is to be justi- commercial as op- to philanthropic it must play some reducing staff turn- l raising the calibre e employed in the If the employment made more attractive tial new recruits of t type, productivity rove, and if they can uraged to stay with ipany, training and ent costs will be re-

t the problem in ms makes it obvious plan must be de- o appeal to people ounger age groups, urnover is highest impact on new will be greatest. A payable 30 or more years hence is unlikely to play a significant part in any *job decision.*

The yardstick by which a young man will almost certainly measure the value of any company pension plan is, therefore, the protection which it offers to his wife and family. More than half the bridegrooms in this country are under 25, so the probability that men in that age group will have family responsibilities is fairly high.

Young women, too, may *well have dependants—more* often than is sometimes appreciated. There are no *comprehensive* statistics available on dependence, but a common situation is that of *an only son or daughter supporting* elderly parents. The death of the breadwinner in *such a household may leave* the survivors in a far worse financial plight than a young widow who, if she has *no* children, may easily find employment or remarry. Any pension fund manager can testify to the wide range of dependants encountered in practice—mentally or physically handicapped relatives, for instance, or the common law wife.

In one case an employee's wife had deserted him some years *earlier* and, after efforts to trace her to begin divorce proceedings had failed, he *set up* house with another woman. At the date of his death they had one child, a cripple. A week after *the man died his legal widow* reappeared—it emerged that she had been living with *another* of the company's employees—and claimed the death benefit.

The trustees of the pension fund exercised their discretion, however, in favour of the woman who was the mother of his dependent child. No state pension, on the other hand, could be paid to her as social security laws recognize no claim but that of the legal widow.

A notable feature of the history of occupational pension plans since the war has been the continual expansion and improvement of death-in-service benefits. Where these have taken the form of lump sums, the amount has steadily increased from one year's salary—the figure generally associated with the *group life* assurance schemes commonplace in the immediate postwar years—up to *four times yearly earnings* which is the maximum currently approvable by the *Inland Revenue.*

The development in widows' pensions has been *equally remarkable.* Many pension funds originally based the benefit on the *member's accrued rights*—that is, the years of service completed to the date of *death—so that the pension if* he died while still young was small. Few plans outside the public sector follow such a pattern and widows' pensions are almost invariably based on total prospective service, future as well as past, so that benefits are adequate from the outset.

The situation on the death of a pensioner in retirement has also undergone a dramatic change. The traditional way of providing a widow's pension in such circumstances was for the member at retirement to give up part of his own pension in exchange for a deferred annuity for his widow. Such an option was a more or less standard feature of most pension plans, but experience showed that it was seldom exercised since most pensioners were unwilling to accept the necessary drop in immediate income.

Separate widows' pensions, paid for by the employer, therefore gradually became part of the retirement package and the Noble Lowndes survey showed that staff pension plans incorporating such a benefit rose from just under 20 per cent in 1970 to just under 75 per cent by the beginning of 1975.

The death benefit scene *is still changing.* Demands for widowers' pensions are making themselves felt and the full *impact of the current* legislation is yet to come.

Actuaries: men behind the funds

by Max Lander

Behind every pension fund is to be found an actuary *who is responsible for ensuring* its financial health. It is the declared policy of both *major political parties* that the growth of good occupational pensions schemes *should be encouraged.* However, when one considers the large number of pension *funds already in existence* and the small number of actuaries who have to deal *with them, the prospect* is somewhat daunting.

The present idea of part*nership between state and* occupational pension schemes is bound to involve an in*crease in the complexity of* pension arrangements. That complexity will be reflected *in the application of actuar*ial techniques to measure and evaluate the financial *position of pension funds.*

Actuaries who are directly concerned with pension funds *one way or another* may be divided into five groups. First, there are actuaries—about 150—in full-time consulting practice, a large part of whose working life is devoted to dealing with all aspects of occupational pension schemes. Second there are the actuaries employed by firms of insurance brokers or by firms of pension advisers who describe themselves variously as pension consultants, insurance brokers or employee benefit consultants, and these probably *number about 50.*

Third there are actuaries employed by life offices which engage in pension business. Some of this group will be working on the planning of pension schemes, others on the actuarial valuation of pensions and yet others on many different aspects of pension fund work.

It is very difficult to guess how many actuaries are to be included in this group. The total number of actuaries employed by the life offices in Britain is probably about 650. At a guess perhaps about 150 are engaged directly in occupational pension scheme business.

Fourth there are qualified actuaries who work as stockbrokers or in merchant banks and some of these will be concerned directly with the investment of pension fund money.

Fifth are actuaries in the Government Actuary's Department, some of whom are engaged on work which has a pension fund content. The total number of actuaries in the government service is about 30, but few of these will be engaged directly on actuarial work in connexion with occupational pension schemes. Many members of the Government Actuary's Department are, of course, concerned with the financing of state pensions.

Of these five groups, therefore, all the first group, and many of the second and third groups, are acting as pension advisers in the *widest sense and are there*fore directly and intimately concerned with the many problems that are treated in the different articles in this Special Report. In addition, they have to apply actuarial techniques to advise on funding rates and on the financial position of all the various pension funds in one way or another.

Clearly they will need to be men of the strongest constitution over the next few years and are faced with a large work load which is not made less by the constant chopping and changing in government policy which has been experienced for far too long.

Other articles deal in particular with the dual structure of the forthcoming state pension arrangements and the major problem of whether to contract out of the earnings-related part of the pension now proposed. Linked with that question is the problem of possible allowance for the state pension, in whole or in part, in the design of the benefit structure or "integration". Actuaries are vitally concerned in these matters.

Considerable actuarial problems arise in connexion with contracting-out because one must first consider whether the occupational pension scheme can provide the relevant benefits for contributions lower than *those remitted* by government to those who contract out.

Occupational pension schemes are funded; the contributions of each generation of members are effectively invested to be used eventually to pay that generation's benefits, whereas the state scheme is pay-as-you-go, and there is no funding. It is one of the more important tasks of the actuary to advise upon the level of contributions required from time to time to *meet* expected benefits, the so-called "pace of funding".

The contribution abatement for members *of* contracted-out schemes has been fixed at a single rate regardless of the age and sex distribution of the members of a particular scheme. On the other hand the correct abatement for a particular occupational pension scheme is dependent on the age and sex distribution of its own membership. These vary widely from scheme to scheme. Consequently, quite apart from considering the contracting-out terms in general, the actuary also has to analyse how each scheme compares with the average to see whether or not the contracting-out terms are attractive for it.

Another serious problem for actuaries is caused by the present high levels of inflation. This has little effect on the state scheme financed on a pay-as-you-go basis; the Government simply increases both benefits and contributions with inflation—and, *broadly* speaking, income continues to match outgoings, provided the ever higher *contributions* are forthcoming. A funded occupational scheme has to find investments that *will match* inflation if the fund is not to suffer a real loss in value which in the end must *be* made good.

In the case of members leaving service the proposals now limit the increases that have to be borne by the occupational scheme to 5 per cent a year up to normal retirement age in pensions awarded to leavers, with the state providing any excess, plus the whole increase after retirement. However, a lump sum premium is to be charged to cover the excess in service, and at present its level is unknown. The position is not satisfactory and much uncertainty remains.

Many would justifiably argue that as inflation is subject to government control it is most unfair to force occupational funds to pay for inflation at all above a modest fixed level. This is because the Government has created a situation in which no inflation-proof or even inflation-matching investment can be found.

stitutions more discriminating in property finance in wake of bull market

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e past few weeks is been made of the t of a number of nd and City estate that pension funds ier institutions are in back in the prop- arket. Undoubtedly p in interest rates e quite significant prices on the Stock e has made invest- property appear to attractions. How- has to be said that nt of the activity is fraction of what it e two years ago.

unlikely that we- er return to the f the last bull mar- it is certain that tic activity at that l much to harm the investment market, eturn to such condi- would be most destructive for the future long-term health of that investment sector.

The market is now based on the long-term investor who wishes to make highly selective purchases. It will be some while before a large volume of funds is seen in this market, since *most of the pensions funds* and institutions have substantial forward commitments to meet for development projects, entered into a year or so ago. Inevitably, the way in which the scale of these commitments has increased through inflation has had much to do with the dampening of the enthusiasm of professional investment managers in committing further large sums to new investments.

The main area of activity now centres on investments of the £500,000 to £3m bracket. The institutions are far more discriminating than they have been for a long time and the slightest blemish on an otherwise perfect investment would be sufficient to cause the buyer to lose interest.

The City, which only a short while ago had such tremendous appeal, has now lost much of its attraction since rents have fallen and the *burden of rates* and other outgoings are rising rapidly. Pension fund man*agers are obviously taking* the view that there is now less likelihood of the rent of a *city office block rising* from £15 to £30 a sq ft over the period of the lease to the first rent review of a provincial office block let at £3 a sq ft doubling to £6. This is particularly so where, based on today's building costs, the economic rent of a building is about £5 a sq ft.

The prime shop investment let to a good tenant is also sought but the definition of prime is now much narrower than it was a little while ago. Shop rents, in common with many office rents, have fallen and the appearance of vacant units in High Street positions suggests considerable caution to a pension fund manager.

It is noticeable that both offices and shops with large investments of more than *£3m are less eagerly sought.* The purchasers for such buildings are few and far *between. Syndication is now* once again being mentioned as a means of dealing with *large investments.* However, the problem with these investments remains and the fund *has to accept a limi*tation on its freedom.

There is little evidence to suggest that an investor can sell out of a consortium or that a substitution can be easily arranged in such a syndicate. For the time being it has to be said that large investments are lock-ups and lock-ins. The terms for large investments must reflect the reduced marketability attached to such an investment.

One area of the market *where there appears to be* little or no movement is in shop and office reversions. Clearly the rent freeze and the possibility of the introduction of long-term control *on business rents did* much to bring the market to a halt.

Now that this spectre has been removed it has been replaced by the uncertainty associated with an economic recession and a downturn in profits from all sectors of the economy. The problem, of course, is particularly acute where the reversion is dependent on the renegotiation of a lease since, if the tenant finds the rent too high then the landlord will have an empty building on his hands which, in present circumstances, might be difficult to relet.

Another factor which clearly has a bearing on the scale of reversionary investments is the vendor's unwillingness to appreciate the risks which the purchaser will have to bear in the purchase of such an investment. Vendors still wish to cling to the hope of sale basis which will equate to the same sort of returns as are obtainable from a rack-rented investment.

In other words, if a rack-rented office building were to sell on an 8 per cent *yield,* the vendor would expect to sell a reversion on an equated 8 per cent *return.* It is doubtful whether the vendor would find a purchaser at 9½ per *cent equated return in such* conditions, particularly where there is a consider*able disparity between the* rent being paid and that accepted in reversion.

The development sector both for finance and the sale of development sites is extremely difficult. The problem here is that the potential rewards from a successful development seem hardly sufficient to justify the acceptance of substantial risks which cannot be quantified.

First, with raging inflation on building costs, a developer or his financier will be unable to establish total capital commitment, or, for that matter, establish ways of limiting it as the development proceeds. Furthermore, with a slack demand any unexpected increases in costs during the *course of the development* are no longer guaranteed to be included in the ultimate *rent at which the building* should be let.

There is no evidence to suggest that rents are in any way following the movement of the increase in building costs. The other unknown factor is the likelihood of letting the building on completion either quickly or at a rent which will provide an adequate return on the capital involved sufficient to remunerate the financier, quite apart from providing a margin for the developer. There are, of course, exceptions to the rule but not to any marked extent.

A few institutions still finance projects with a *short* development period and where the development is prelet. In the case of a *construction period of six to* nine months, as is the case with a warehouse or fac*tory, the contractors are* often prepared to accept a fixed-price contract. Given that a *commitment has been* obtained from a tenant, both the developer and the *financier* have a reasonable prospect of achieving their expected returns on completion of the project.

Variations on this theme have been in evidence of late, particularly in the case of banks wishing to find some way out of a site with which they appear to be locked in. Here, in association with the developer to whom they provided the initial finance, arrangements are made with a fund for the purchase of the investment on completion of the building works and lettings, leaving the banks to provide the building finance up to completion.

Obviously the risks are *minimized,* but a pension fund must take the view on whether it is in the market to acquire assets or a medium-term liability to take further property investments on board. However, if as is being predicted, there will be a shortage of prime quality investments in the course of the next two or three years, some funds might increasingly be prepared to accept this route to a property investment.

Transfer of benefits in sight

by F. R. Langham

This is an apposite moment to look at pension arrangements in Europe. Not only is Parliament considering the Social Security Pensions Bill but also the population is about to express its view on whether or not Britain should remain a member of the European Economic Community. Both of these will have important consequences for the future development of pensions in Britain.

An examination of pensions in Europe must start with state social security. Most, but not all, countries in Europe adopted originally the concept that the object of social security was to make compulsory provision against basic poverty, that is to meet basic needs, and that above these the individual should provide for himself. This led to the development of essentially flat rate state schemes.

However, many countries have changed their approach because of a mixture of rising expectations, changing political philosophies, the failure of individuals separately or in conjunction with their employers to provide adequately for themselves and the erosion of savings because of inflation. In many countries in Europe social security is now seen as a protection of standards established by the individual worker and hence the development of earnings-related state schemes.

Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and a number of other countries have such schemes. In some of these countries the benefit levels, and consequently the costs as well, are very high. For example, in Italy the state pension for employees retiring in 1976 will be about 80 per cent of average final covered earnings (best three years out of the last 10)—covered earnings being all earnings up to a ceiling of 13.65m lire a year.

In Germany the maximum state pension is theoretically 75 per cent of indexed career-covered earnings (present ceiling DM33,600) but because the indexation is related to national average earnings over the three consecutive years before the year of retirement, the actual state pension as a proportion of final earnings can be much lower than the theoretical maximum.

Finland reacted to the various factors mentioned above in a different manner. State pensions remain flat rate but in the early 1960s legislation was introduced requiring all employers to introduce occupational pension schemes. The minimum occupational pension is now 1½ per cent of final average earnings for each year of service after 1962 and ½ per cent for each year of service before 1962.

Recently a referendum was held in Switzerland giving the population the choice between introducing an earnings-related state scheme or compulsory occupational schemes. The population opted for compulsory occupational schemes and legislation to fulfil this is now being completed. In The Netherlands, where the state pension is also flat rate, legislation on compulsory occupational schemes is expected soon.

France has tackled pension provision in a different way. State scheme benefits are moderate but it is compulsory for nearly all French employers to participate in one of a number of occupational schemes throughout industry. The standard financing technique is similar to that commonly known in Britain as pay-as-you-go.

Funds are not accumulated but benefits broadly match contributions. The system is extremely complicated because of the great variety of these schemes and in retrospect it might have been preferable for the French to have adopted a high-level earnings-related state scheme.

It is clear that the concept of the state providing only minimum benefits and relying on the individual to supplement them is fast disappearing. In Europe, governments have reacted by either extending state schemes or legislating for compulsory occupational schemes. In the United Kingdom the Government is pursuing a different path. It is introducing a second-tier state scheme, but at the same time encouraging occupational schemes to flourish by incorporating a contracting-out option.

This is an experiment that has not been tried on any scale elsewhere in Europe, and the only other countries where there is a contracting-out option are Japan and recently New Zealand.

Occupational pension schemes are generally introduced in circumstances where state benefits or other statutory benefits payable on retirement are insufficient to provide some or all employees with a satisfactory income in retirement when related to the level of their earnings at retirement.

In some countries the level of compulsory provision is so high that there is almost no scope for any private occupational schemes. Such a country is Italy where, in addition to the high state scheme, there is also a system of compulsory lump sum, leaving indemnities payable on termination of service, including termination because of retirement.

In other countries the scope is wider and occupational schemes not only provide benefits on earnings above social security ceilings but also top up benefits for employees whose earnings are below the ceilings where state and other compulsory retirement provision is considered inadequate.

Supervision and controls on occupational schemes tend to be stricter in Europe than in the United Kingdom. The only main restrictions in Britain are Inland Revenue limits which affect maximum benefits and the new preservation requirements. There are also some funding restrictions for schemes that were contracted-out of the state graduated scheme.

In some countries in Europe it is unusual to have funded pension arrangements. Two notable examples are Austria and West Germany. Because of the rapid inflation in West Germany in the 1920s and during the war, doubt was cast on the ability of accumulated pension funds to preserve their real value. The main solution adopted has been the creation of sizable unfunded pension reserves in companies' accounts which have been available for financing directly the expansion of the companies concerned.

This solution has received encouragement from the tax authorities since allocations to reserves for pension benefits are deductible for tax. Denmark and The Netherlands are at the other end of the spectrum, and in both of these countries pension promises have to be funded. It is for consideration whether this requirement has led to the position that for some employees pension provision is lower than it might have been.

In the United Kingdom, in order to ensure the security of employees' pension rights, employers have traditionally established independent trust funds. Similar arrangements are seen in other countries in Europe but some countries have adopted forms of credit insurance. There are examples of this in Finland and Sweden where in both of these countries credit insurance has to be taken out, either if pension promises are unfunded or if the assets of pension funds are lent back to the employer.

In West German legislation has just been enacted which introduces credit insurance for unfunded reserves. In France the matter has been tackled in a different way. French employees rely for the security of their occupational pensions on occupational schemes which exist throughout industry and agreements between the different schemes to help each other out. The security for a French employee rests finally in the same way as does the security for members of state schemes—on future generations continuing to meet their obligations.

In The Netherlands there is a restriction that not more than 10 per cent of the assets of a pension fund can be invested or lent to the employer. Generally speaking, until the recent situation of investment returns failing to match inflation, the freedom on investment in the United Kingdom has meant that employers have been able to provide higher benefit levels than would otherwise have been possible at acceptable cost. Any interference in this field, as has been mooted recently, might have the effect of reducing still further overall investment returns, leading inevitably to higher costs and/or poorer benefits and/or a reduction in funding levels. Pension funds fulfil one social purpose. They cannot fulfil others without prejudicing their primary, and what should be their only, objective.

One of the objectives of the Rome Treaty was the harmonization of social security systems. The intention was not to impose identical benefit and contribution structures on each member country but that there should be coordination between the social security systems of each member country. Governments have been free to pursue their own individual solutions within their own countries and this is likely to go on so that continued membership of the EEC is unlikely to lead to a loss of sovereignty in that area. The coordination between the different member states is leading towards full transferability of social security rights and benefits, and this is undoubtedly to the advantage of persons who move between member countries either temporarily (even for holidays with regard to medical benefits) or permanently.

From the point of view of occupational pension schemes there has been no direct effect. On the other hand the future development of occupational pension schemes in the United Kingdom must depend on the prosperity of the country as a whole and industry in particular, and the country is likely to be more prosperous by remaining in the EEC.

Unions are keen on bigger say

by Harry Lucas
Head of Pensions and Social Services Department, General and Municipal Workers Union

Trade unions are more interested and more active than ever before in securing good occupational pensions. They see pensions contributions and benefits as pay—deferred pay. Their objective is to ensure, therefore, that their members have the right to participate in the management of their savings.

The question of member involvement is not one of advantages and disadvantages, but of rights. It is incorrect to assume, provided they have access to the proper advice, that members are not capable of participation in collective decisions on investment policy, the exercising of discretionary powers, supervising the day-to-day administration and taking suitable action on actuarial recommendations. Each function understandably is an integral part in the management of a pension fund.

The unions realize that it is no part of the trustee's duties and responsibilities to seek to negotiate improvements in the benefits or terms of the pension scheme. His job is to administer the trust fund in accordance with its deed and rules and general trust law. It is the role of the unions to negotiate on improved benefits.

Not appointed for sectional interest

Similarly we appreciate that the essential responsibility of the trustee to the pension scheme member is to perform his duties to the best of his ability for the benefit of all the beneficiaries. He is not appointed to represent a sectional interest; he must not be better disposed, for example, towards members of trade unions as compared with non-union members or the members of a particular trade union as against those of another union.

Neither the unions' attitude nor understanding should be mistaken. All unions seek equality of member representation on boards of trustees or committees of management. By reason of the financial demands on the employer which can be affected by the decisions of the fund management, the unions accept that the employer must be involved and should therefore appoint up to 50 per cent of trustees on the management committee.

Being aware how easily some employers can be deterred from dismantling the screens of secrecy that conceal the management of our members' savings in pension funds, I am opposed to that part of the Occupational Pension Board's report (to the Secretary of State for Social Services) which recommends that there should be a voluntary code of practice for membership representation for perhaps a further five years.

Allegedly, there is a voluntary code of practice in force on the communication of pension scheme information which simply has not worked. I hope that the Labour Government will agree with the unions and impose a statutory obligation on employers to include a 50 per cent participation of members in the management of their schemes.

When unions assert a right for equal representation on boards of trustees they are aware of the need for specialist training—indeed this awareness is increased when we meet some of our members who are trustees of well established funds, and realize just how ineffective they really are. A "rubber stamp" type of employee trustee is not the unions' objective, and a "rubber stamp" trustee is certainly not undertaking his responsibilities in a proper and serious manner.

Accepting as I do the need for training and informing employee trustees and assuming that employers and unions see this as a joint responsibility, a joint exercise, I can best indicate the positive action taken by my union, the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

As the result of a unanimous decision taken by the GMWU 1973 annual congress, it established at national level a Pensions and Social Services Department. The active participation of the department's officers in national and regional pension negotiations has gained the respect of management and the interest of most within the pensions industry. In addition they have provided educational and training facilities on occupational pensions generally and on membership trusteeship in particular.

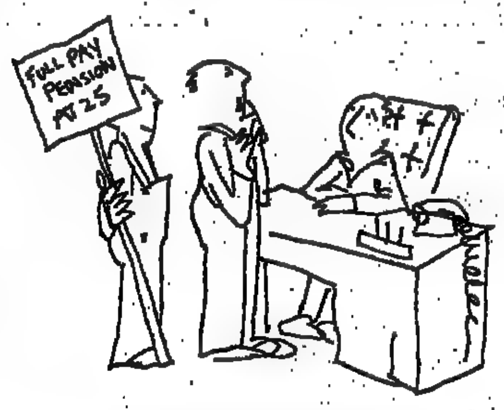
With its second training college becoming fully operational this autumn (one in Surrey, the other in Cheshire) the GMWU is well advanced in accepting the responsibility of training member representatives in all aspects of pension fund administration, management and trusteeship. Little training of this kind appears to be available outside unions' facilities.

Accepting that trust law has to be observed, thereby imposing certain restrictions on trustees, there is a special role for the employee representative. In simple form—to bring the pension fund members and the pension fund itself together.

By personifying the pension fund, the member representative can make it an understandable reality. By becoming an effective two-way channel of communication — fund to members and members to fund—the member representative can provide the evidence to his colleagues' satisfaction that the fund is in good hands, being properly administered and that discretionary powers are being applied with compassion, tact and a positive understanding of how the other half survives.

All of which adds up to a constructive contribution towards the unification of management and members, a contribution towards the plea of all persons of honest intent, a unified nation.

Looking to the future, apart from the structure of pension schemes and the responsibilities of member trustees, the unions' educational role needs expanding beyond the present capabilities in order to embrace training and counselling for pre-retirement.



MY BROTHERS AND I HAVE SOLVED THE OVER-MANNING PROBLEM

Partnership a way to reform

continued from page I

cent reduction for a contracted-out scheme would be a total contribution to the state scheme of about 16.5 per cent up to the base level and about 9.5 per cent between the base level and the ceiling. This compares with a total contribution of 14 per cent payable from April, 1975, for the existing state benefits, though up to a lower maximum. It should be noted, however, that the reductions in contributions for contracted-out schemes will need to be lowered at regular intervals. This is because the average rate of accrual of benefits for the younger employees in the new state scheme will be lower than for older employees and hence the average rate at which contracted-out employees will forgo state pensions will fall gradually over the years.

Employers will not be allowed to discriminate between groups of earners, other than by type of employment, in deciding whether to elect to contract-out. The attractiveness, or otherwise, of the contribution reduction will therefore depend in part on the age distribution of the employees and the relative numbers of men and women. It has been suggested in some quarters that a reduction of 7 per cent is too finely drawn, partly because of the higher proportion of women likely to be in pensionable employment in future and more particularly because of the risk that employers may not be able to obtain a real rate of return on investments.

Contracting-out is a complex matter and has implications not only for individual employers and their employees but for the community as a whole. The issue is not clear cut and much careful consideration will need to be given by employers and their advisers, and by those responsible for administering and investing pension plans, of the pros and cons of alternative courses of action.

For the smallest groups the difficulties of "homing" on to a final salary type target will in any event tend to inhibit contracting-out. For larger groups the main factors for consideration—where a worthwhile scheme is under consideration or already exists—are:

1. The inflation-proofing of benefits up to retirement, as mentioned above. Much will depend on the degree of confidence that can be engendered as to buying-back terms in what might be very different investment conditions and on whether some form of safety net to protect employers from a catastrophic increase in liabilities can be devised.

2. The attraction or otherwise of the contribution reduction in relation to the cost of benefits for the employees concerned.

3. The attitude of the employees. Any attempt to cut back on existing occupational scheme benefits could lead to difficulties though "integration" with the new state benefits so as to provide at least as good a total package could provide an acceptable solution.

4. The flexibility available to an occupational scheme. This can be of particular value in dealing with early retirements and in other circumstances to accommodate the particular needs of members.

5. The administration aspects. If a scheme is contracted-out, the GMPs will need to be recorded. But if a scheme is integrated with the state, additional record-keeping will also be necessary.

In future, employers will have a choice of providing a considerable part of employee retirement benefits through the state arrangements rather than through funded occupational schemes. Each of these systems has its strengths and weaknesses depending on the economic environment in which it has to exist. The urgent need is to restore an economic climate which encourages investment from savings in the United Kingdom rather than from borrowing from abroad.

Failing that, all the gradual and voluntary development of occupational schemes that has occurred over a long period could be reversed. The advantages of flexible and funded occupational schemes are not likely to be easily restored should there be any material move away from the present systems and disciplines.

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... major disadvantage is ...fficulty of determin... state benefits. It is the ... of the earnings-related state scheme that is the problem. A revalued earnings-related scheme such as the Castle plan is complicated enough but when it works on the best 20 years' earnings it is even more complicated.

Although it is quite simple to say that an employee will have a sixtieth of salary for each year of service less the amount earned under the state scheme, it is not so easy to calculate because the occupational pension target is a movable feast reducing as the state scheme benefit increases. This means that it is not until the actual date of retirement (or probably three or four months after the date of retirement when the Department of Health and Social Security can say what the state scheme benefits are) that the employee will know how much pension he is going to get from the state and how much from his occupational scheme.

This may not matter too much for employees who remain in service until their normal retirement date, but it does matter for an employee who leaves service before retirement. Just how much will his occupational scheme provide when he reaches retirement age? Surely at the date of leaving service he ought to have a firm figure to work on so that he can negotiate any shortfall in benefits with his new employer.

If benefits are to be reduced by integration it is likely that there will be pressure for employees' contributions to be reduced as well. Superficially, it would seem fair to reduce all members' contributions by the same percentage but this would ignore the fact that for some older employees their occupational scheme benefits might be almost eliminated after the state scheme benefits had been offset. Obviously these employees would object to paying the same contribution rate to the occupational scheme as other employees.

Take, for example, a final salary scheme providing 1.25 per cent of final salary for each year of service which has been running for a number of years when the new state scheme starts in April, 1978. The company decides to integrate fully with the new state scheme. Before April, 1978, employees were paying 4 per cent of pensionable salaries.

How is contribution integration achieved? For an employee within 20 years of normal pension date the new state scheme will provide an accrual rate of 1.25 per cent of upper tier earnings (earnings between £11.60 and £81.20 per week in current terms) revalued in line with movement in the earnings index.

If this is deducted from his occupational scheme pension his benefit will be confined almost entirely to the pension for service before April, 1978. He will probably feel that his contributions ought to be stopped completely. For an employee who is 30 years from normal pension date the state scheme accrual rate is only 0.83 per cent and clearly some contributions need to be paid, say at 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

For an employee 40 years from normal pension date the accrual rate from the state scheme is only 0.625 per cent and he, too, ought to pay some contributions—perhaps 2 per cent to 3 per cent. It is clear that contribution integration will be a nightmare because it will depend on the age of the employee when the new state scheme starts. To be equitable, different contribution rates ought to be paid and although these rates are complex enough for employees in service in April, 1978, taking on new entrants after this date will be even worse.

Clearly the employer will have a difficult task if he is to agree an equitable basis with the union representatives and be is likely to finish with a compromise which adds to his expenses.

This time it must be the real thing

by M. Haddon-Grant
Secretary, Plessey Co, and chairman, National Association of Pension Funds

The National Association of Pension Funds was formed in 1923 to deal with the problems of the Finance Act, 1921, which is generally regarded as the charter of occupational pension funds. Since that date it has continued to represent the interests of those concerned with occupational pensions, both in the public and the private sectors, and is the only body in the country whose membership embraces both insured and self-administered schemes.

The association has, therefore, been in existence for more than 52 years but in many ways the past five years have probably been the most momentous. During that period we have had three different sets of government proposals designed to regulate the relationship between the occupational schemes and the state scheme, the latest of which is set out in the Social Security Pensions Bill. Over the past few months, moreover, we have for the first time, heard serious doubts expressed as to whether occupational pension schemes can survive in a time of high inflation when most available sources of investment are producing a negative rate of return.

As against this, however, during this period there appears to have emerged a much greater consciousness of the importance of the occupational pension funds movement in relation to the national economy. Pension fund contributions represent 40 per cent of national savings in the private sector of the economy, and pension fund trustees and administrators are being asked to assume increasing responsibilities in their roles as institutional investors. An example is the approach made recently by the Governor to pension funds and other institutional investors to support the Finance for Industry loan sponsored by the Bank of England.

The National Association of Pension Funds supports occupational pension funds and firmly believes that in normal circumstances they can provide earnings related pensions without government assistance. Its view has always been that the Government's role should be to provide a pension up to a basic minimum, a level which would enable pensioners to live without hardship but probably with little margin for luxuries.

The association sees the role of the occupational pension fund, by virtue of its greater flexibility and adaptability to individual and local circumstances, as complementary to that of the state fund to the extent that it can safeguard the employee against a sudden and drastic fall in his accustomed standard of living. The Government's function should be to provide encouragement to such funds, both by maintaining a background of stability and by ensuring a healthy economic environment. The association feels that the development of occupational schemes should be further encouraged by the provision of other financial incentives.

However, neither the previous Government nor the present Government has been wholly willing to support it in this contention. The previous Government envisaged a huge state reserve scheme at a fairly low level, and the present Government is proposing that there will be a "pay as you go" earnings related element to the state scheme—in either case giving options to contract out for those employers who can provide adequate occupational pension schemes, but without fully providing the sort of climate in which the occupational schemes can flourish.

The most important element in any form of pension planning must, however, be stability. Employers have twice in the past five years been faced with the complex decision as to whether they should contract out of the second tier of the state scheme, and they will shortly have to make the decision once again. It is, therefore, imperative that they should be able to feel that this time it is for real.

It is for this reason that the association has accepted that it must be in the interests of all—employers, employees and the occupational pension fund movement as a whole—to try, if possible, to go along with the Government's bipartisan approach even to the extent of compromising in what it regards as the best possible solution, in order to achieve a relationship which is likely to achieve some degree of permanence.

However, there are a number of matters in the new Bill which must be changed if a satisfactory relationship is to be established; thus we are concerned that the contracting-out provisions are still too finely drawn, particularly those concerned with investment earnings. The Bill as drafted gives no incentive for contracting out, and indeed, in some respects could be seen as a deterrent.

Even if no positive incentive can be provided the association feels, if employers are to be persuaded to contract out of the state scheme, that a greater margin must be allowed so that at least an even balance can be obtained. The situation is, however, exacerbated by the requirement not to select on grounds of age or sex but to accept a single average rate.

It is also becoming increasingly apparent that some limit will have to be set to the employer's present unlimited commitment to revalue earnings while contracted-out employment continues.

...uidance to the industry and advice to the Government

...Philip Allen
...an, Occupational ...ns Board

...ccupational Pensions ... was appointed on ...ber 5 1973, under ... 66(1) of the Social ...y Act 1973, to ...ster the new pension ...ements as far as occu...l pension schemes ...oncerned.

... board's main func... were: issuing recogni... certificates to ...yers whose pension schemes met the required standards, and who wished to contract out of the new state reserve scheme; supervising the financial arrangements of recognized schemes to ensure that benefits had the necessary financial backing; deciding whether scheme rules conformed with the preservation arrangements for early leavers; assisting schemes to modify their rules to meet the new requirements; considering proposals for regulations about occupational pension schemes; carrying out in respect of occupational pension schemes such advisory functions as might be conferred on them by the Secretary of State for Social Services.

In May, 1974, after the general election in February of that year, Mrs Barbara Castle, the new Secretary of State, announced that the Government had decided not to bring into operation those provisions of the 1973 Act which related to the reserve pension scheme and the arrangements for recognition of occupational schemes which were submitted for exemption from it. This removed from the board responsibilities for the first two of these functions.

The board substantially reduced its staff, and at that stage concentrated mainly on the preservation requirements of the Act. These requirements, which apply to members of occupational pension schemes who leave their jobs before reaching normal pension age, took effect on April 6, 1975.

Guidance was issued to the pensions industry in consolidated form in October, 1974. This was memorandum 18, *Preservation of Occupational Pension Rights*, in the series issued with the Superannuation Funds Office of the Board of Inland Revenue (with which the board operates a joint office).

The board also issued a *Short Guide to the Preservation of Occupational Pension Benefits*, mainly for employers who wanted to know more about the requirements without going into too much technical detail. More recently it published a leaflet, OPB1, entitled *Pension Rights on Changing Your Job*, explaining to individual members of pension schemes their entitlement under the Act.

The board's officials have also given advice about the preservation requirements to the administrators of many thousands of pension schemes. This is a continuing task and one which gives rise to complex questions of interpreting and applying the provisions of the Act and the regulations.

Section 64 of the 1973 Act empowers the board to help those concerned to modify the rules of schemes, or even to wind up schemes, where they have no powers to do this or where to do so would be unduly complex or cumbersome. The Act defines the circumstances in which the powers can be used and provides various safeguards. The board is handling an increasing number of applications to help in this way, for example, where the scheme's rules need changing to meet the preservation requirements.

Under the last of the board's statutory functions, it was in July, 1974, asked by Mrs Castle to consider and report: whether further statutory provision should be made for supervising occupational pension schemes to ensure their solvency; whether there should be statutory provision about the disclosure of information, and particularly financial information, about occupational pension schemes to members and generally; whether there should be statutory provision about the participation of scheme members on boards of trustees or management committees of schemes.

The board collected written information and opinions on these three questions from as wide a range as possible of interested organizations and individuals. In addition they took oral evidence from 10 organizations, including the CBI and the TUC. Members also obtained information from government departments and outside pension experts in nine other countries.

The board's main report was sent to the Secretary of State on January 24, 1975, and published by her on February 20. The second volume, consisting of the written evidence received in response to the questionnaires, was published on April 29. The third volume on overseas evidence will be published soon.

On February 18, Mrs Castle asked the board to consider what further steps needed to be taken to achieve equality of status between women and men in occupational pension schemes in the light of the Government's determination to end discrimination against women in these schemes.

On this occasion the board prepared notes giving guidance on the kind of evidence required, and background information on the relative position of men and women in pension schemes and on relevant legislation in other fields. These notes have been distributed to a number of organizations and individuals known to be interested in this subject. A two-page version of the notes has also been prepared. Copies of both versions are available.

Old people still know all about poverty

by Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Pensions policy has been in a state of flux in Britain for the past 20 years for two basic reasons. In the 1950s it became clear that the Welfare State had not succeeded in abolishing poverty among the old. It also became increasingly evident that not enough money was being raised to pay for its wide range of benefits.

Successive governments have found it easier to legislate on the financing aspects than on the idea of abolishing poverty in old age. By consent, the present proposals for a new structure for pensions comes the closest of any of the previous plans to achieving the second objective.

The now defunct graduated pensions scheme was the first attempt at an interim solution. It certainly succeeded as a money-raiser, although not sufficiently to avoid the need for a complete restructuring of National Insurance contributions. But its success as a way of improving pensions was limited.

When the scheme was introduced in 1961, the National Insurance Fund had been in deficit for three years. Graduated contributions totalled £147,000 in the first year of operation and helped to bring the fund into surplus again. But the fund plunged back into deficit the following year and in 1966 the Government felt obliged to levy reduced graduated contributions on those people who were contracted out of the scheme. Again, the resulting surplus lasted only one year and the fund has only twice been in surplus since 1967.

The latest available figures show that at the end of 1973, 33 per cent of all pensioners were receiving a graduated pension on top of their basic state pension. But the average amount of graduated pension was only 23p a week, and only 2 per cent of the total had more than £1 of graduated pension.

At the time, a married pensioner couple would have needed an extra 35p a week to bring their pension up to the official poverty line as set by supplementary benefit scale rates. But they would have needed between £1.95 and £3.12 a week on top to cover their housing costs, which are met by supplementary benefits. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that nearly one third of all pensioners were claiming supplementary benefits on top of their pensions at the end of 1973. The proportion does not reflect the extent of need in old age because it is known that many eligible pensioners do not claim supplementary benefits through pride, inability to cope with the procedures, or ignorance that they can claim.

One of the fundamental aims of the Government's new long-term pensions policy will be to preclude as many people as possible from having to claim supplementary benefits when they retire by making it possible for the overwhelming majority to have an earnings-related pension higher than the poverty line. But since the basic level of the new state pension will still be below the supplementary benefit level, there will still be substantial numbers of pensioners below the official poverty line when the scheme reaches full maturity after 20 years.

Age Concern, the voluntary organization concerned with problems of the elderly, estimates that about one million pensioners will still have incomes below the poverty line under the scheme. The Department of Health and Social Security claims that figure is too high, but cannot offer an alternative estimate. Whatever the final figure proves to be, it is likely to be the lowest number under any of the three major pension plans proposed by the last three governments in Britain. If substantial numbers of pensioners no longer have to rely on supplementary benefits to bring them up to the poverty line, it is possible that those remaining will have a better service.

The proposals have been attacked by Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, as offering lower final pensions to significant numbers than would have accrued under the Crossman proposals. That view is strongly resisted by Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, because the current proposals were devised with the idea of improving on the Crossman scheme which was abandoned when the Conservatives were returned to power in 1970.

There is no doubt that the new policy is an improvement in many ways. It goes farther in giving women equality, and allows for the interruptions in a working life by taking only the best 20 years of contributions as the qualification for a pension. The proportion of pension to an individual's earnings is heavily weighted in favour of the lower paid, who are generally less likely to have an occupational pension to fall back on. It will be reviewed every year and pensions will be increased in line with average earnings, or with prices when they rise faster.

Until the scheme [illegible] operation, either from [illegible] 1977, or the following [illegible] the level of pension [illegible] the new proposals can [illegible] be estimates. But i[illegible] scheme were in force [illegible] single person earning [illegible] week would have had [illegible] sion of £13.70 or an in[illegible] of £2.10 over the presen[illegible] sion and the equivale[illegible] 68 per cent of his [illegible] earnings. At the top [illegible] the scale, someone ea[illegible] £81.20 (the assumed [illegible] mum level on which [illegible] butions would be pa[illegible] would have a pension [illegible] a week, £17.40 more th[illegible] current pension and [illegible] senting 36 per cent of [illegible] ings.

In addition, people [illegible] have accrued graduate[illegible] sion rights would have [illegible] added and Mrs Castl[illegible] promised to improve [illegible] in line with price inc[illegible] instead of leaving th[illegible] their fixed value. It is [illegible] ted that this improv[illegible] will apply to all gra[illegible] pensioners, and not jus[illegible] who retire after the l[illegible] tion is passed. The pre[illegible] has already been set th[illegible] by introducing inflation [illegible] increases for the extr[illegible] sion earned by deferri[illegible] tirement. The prospe[illegible] better pensions for [illegible] outside occupational sc[illegible] look much brighter, [illegible] fore. But only time will [illegible] the nation is willing t[illegible] the cost.

Peddling pity and promises

by Victor Thorne

For many years the British public has witnessed the cyclical spectacle of fierce political auctioneering around the subject of pensions. Every prospective government cries better deals for all and parliamentary candidates peddle pity and promises at the hustings. As a result, state pensions have crept forward spasmodically, while the national fervour has usually left private employers' schemes by the wayside.

By and large, employers dictated the level of pensions, the choice of contributory or non-contributory and the terms of transferability, if any, so that over the years the variations of schemes have proliferated.

That was before April. Until then, if an employee left a company which operated a contributory pension scheme, all he got back as recompense was no more than the total he had paid in over the years. Even if he retired at 64, there was no legal obligation on his employer to do anything except return his contributions, with no interest or allowance for inflation added. And, if the employer's scheme was non-contributory, the employee would leave with nothing to live on at retirement age.

Now pension rights are more secure under the Social Security Act of 1973, which came into effect on April 6 this year. Under its terms, employees over 26 years of age will no longer run the risk of forfeiting their pension rights accruing from one employer's contributory scheme if they have been in continuous service with him for a minimum of five years. The pension must be preserved for them until they come of retirement age, or must be transferred to a subsequent employer if the employee so wishes.

What is more, the employee now has the option of taking a refund of any contributions made during service before April, 1975, leaving his contributions to date with that employer to be paid out as a pension on retirement, or transferring it to his next employer.

The most likely option taken will be the transfer of pension payments from employer to employer, with each new employer granting a benefit on retirement which is calculated on the purchasing power of that transferred payment within the new pension scheme.

But the drawback on transferability between one private plan and another comes with the different actuarial approaches to risk calculation. What happens is that the actuary working on behalf of an insurance company or pension fund calculates the level of premiums on a group basis, with swings and roundabouts allowances built in on statistical certainties.

Experience has shown, in other words, that in any one company a certain percentage of employees will die early, some will leave before the five-year minimum pensionable period is up, some after longer periods, but before retirement age, some will get sick and a percentage will be injured or maimed.

Much hinges on these actuarial calculations. If an employee's rate of salary rise up to the point of retirement has been underestimated by a previous employer's actuary, his final employer will be obliged to top up the outstanding balance from his own fund.

Among local authorities, the Civil Service departments and the nationalized industries there exists a fairly efficient transfer "club" in which no money actually changes hands even *though employees do. It is* made possible only because a high degree of consistency has been achieved in actuarial calculations. The local authorities have gone the farthest in ironing out imbalances between them, with 10 years' service in Hammersmith, for instance, worth 10 years in Bristol.

One further factor is worrying private employers at this time, and that arises from Mrs Barbara Castle's radical alternative proposals for social security, outlined in September, 1974, and due to become effective, Parliament willing, in 1978 or 1979, maturing 20 years later.

The scheme will operate wholly on the pay-as-you-go principle, without prior funding. As far as transferability is concerned, the Government intends that the previous employer should meet the transfer payment cost, at the same time allowing for a cost-of-living increase.

Just how the scheme will work once legislation comes into effect is anyone's guess. It has left employers totally bewildered. If the cost-of-living rate reaches an [illegible] of 7 per cent a year, [illegible] will the 2 per cent ov[illegible] top of the index me[illegible] terms of final pension [illegible]

The Government [illegible] honour bound to pu[illegible] Castle proposals thro[illegible] it can and if it st[illegible] power. Morally, the [illegible] tant legislation reflec[illegible] proper approach to a [illegible] need.

But what of the eff[illegible] employers' operating [illegible] Experts have estimate[illegible] their contribution to [illegible] sion funds under th[illegible] posed new scheme [illegible] present at a norm of [illegible] *15 per cent of total* p[illegible] could reach 20 per c[illegible] more under existing [illegible] ation and soar to 10[illegible] cent if Mrs Castle's [illegible] sals go through Parli[illegible] Not exactly a delightfu[illegible] spect for companies a[illegible] fighting the whip-end [illegible] precedented inflation, [illegible] individual employee [illegible] well suffer, too.

Rate of return must rise

by Barrie C. Johnston
director of Charterhouse Japhet

During recent months there has been in the press an increasing barrage of headlines which appear to throw doubts on the solvency of pension funds and which *highlight* the vast extra contributions being made out of company profits in order to solve the problem.

This is undoubtedly good news value, but it is at the same time somewhat irresponsible and is unnecessarily damaging to the pension movement, to the confidence of members in schemes and to the future role of the capitalist system in the financing of the much needed expansion and modernization of Britain's industries.

We shall all have to think again if the rate of return on our funds is going to fall short of salary increases for a long period of years, but if that happens there will be many worse things to worry about than pensions.

We therefore need to take a cool look at what is going on, try to see what is behind the headlines, then see if steps can be taken to increase pension fund earnings so that a real return is once again the order of the day. We must be prepared to engage in the struggle to preserve what we know to be in the best interests of our own security through the funded arrangements for pensions.

First we need to remember that from the date of admission of the youngest contributor to a fund to his inevitable death there may well be an interval of some 60 years or more. The present situation of a negative real return can thus be seen as a hiccup; admittedly it looks like a pretty big one, but within possibly two years or so we shall be back in calmer conditions and this difficult period will be seen *in better perspective.*

There are many reasons why individual funds may be "topping up", but the reasons have no news value—as social conditions change so are pension benefits either amended or expanded, and the resultant bill can be large. A company may decide, for example, *to increase its pension* benefits, to reduce its retirement age or to include widows' benefits for the first time, and these additional arrangements can be funded only by means of contributions from company profits.

Some schemes may not have been as fully funded as now appears necessary because of the need to increase benefits of those already on retirement, and when profits are good it is obviously expedient to take the opportunity to make suitable arrangements. Further, when stock markets and property prices have been down to such low levels what better time is there than the present to make these payments?

However, we must not forget the many hundreds of funds that will not need to make any additional payments. These may have been wiser in the past by funding at higher levels than were perhaps strictly necessary or they may have handled their portfolios in a more rewarding manner, thereby obtaining that little extra return which makes so much difference over a fund's lifetime.

An extra 1 per cent return on a fund will, over a period of time, cut the required contributions by some 15 to 20 per cent a year, and this is well worth seeking. Related to the profits of companies, especially those with large staffs, these savings are meaningful and can result in an increase of some 8 per cent in pretax profits on average. Such a figure in an engineering business would result in many a manager having a happy year end, but in pensions the figures are neither easily quantifiable nor instantly apparent. Nevertheless they can be achieved and should be demanded by management, shareholders and workers alike.

Trustees of funds are correctly appointed for their judgment and caution, but this does not entitle them to be inactive. For many years there was little evidence of what was going to happen as a result of inflation while the portfolios, for which the trustees have been responsible, have been under constant attack from governments of all colours, the weapons including dividend freezes, profit limitations, price controls and rent restrictions.

This onslaught has undermined the confidence of managers to put additional funds into equities as they had been doing for the past 20 years or so.

The search for satisfactory and suitable investments therefore becomes more crucial and it is in the interests of everybody for finance directors to make sure that their pension funds are profitably managed. One insurance company, one merchant bank or perhaps one individual may have managed a whole portfolio for 25 years. Possibly the ability of that manager has never been questioned, but it needs to be, because the difference between the successful and not so successful can be considerable—a recent survey has shown that over five years one fund has outperformed the worst of those measured *by some 80 per* cent.

By having one institution or person appointed for so long a period the trustees are assuming that they have the best in the business; we cannot all have this fortune, and if corporate advisers hold the reins the people within the organization will change and what was originally thought a correct choice may prove less satisfactory.

As conditions change it can be profitable to select additional managers for a portion of a fund, partly because different views are obtained but partly because alternative forms of specialization can be found.

Caution is required at all stages; a few years ago, as yields became inadequate to cope with the increasing rate of inflation, we saw the rush into growth stocks, but this, as we now know, did not solve many problems. Nor are purchases of works of art and other non-revenue producing assets likely to prove satisfactory, *because a future sale price* can never be guaranteed and at 14 per cent a year compound it will be necessary to see a 48 per cent rise in capital over a three-year period to equate with the assured income of, for example, a gilt-edged stock.

The responsibility for seeing that competent management is appointed and kept up to the mark is clear. If, unhappily, there is failure to perform then the penalties are obvious, and trustees, finance directors and shareholders (including the funds themselves) have a duty to see that value for money is obtained.

If between us all we fail, then not only will our funds suffer but the capital market will be denuded of the cash it needs to keep alive the system as we know it.

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…as been no such per… …n old age pensioner …948 when National …e retirement pen… …ere introduced, yet … continually see …es in the press to … age pensioners ". … offer special dis… to pensioners, and …ducation authorities … that reduced rates …ening classes are …e for " OAPs ".
…onstant use of the …d age pensioner con… to the sense of loss …s which can hit a … woman when they … draw their state …nt benefits. Such …re not old at 65 or … average man in …who has managed to …moking himself to …r being run over …k forward to a life…cy of 18 years after … of 60, and the more …e women can expect … 22 years. They …irement full of vim …dity and detest the …el which our work… society insists on …g to them.
…a label makes the …ent to retirement …fficult. It often crys… and then exag… the feeling of the …tired person that he … put out to grass rejected by society. …n told me that being …was like having an …putated. The exclu…n the work environ…n be traumatic for …loyee who has not … and prepared for …nt in good time. He …ll the help he can … both employer and …tion to help him to …d adjust to the pen…ck, as retirement is … on the Continent. … Raglan, president of …-Retirement Associ… (PRA), has said: … far more than … to be generally rea… conceded, is, to the …ajority of us, as … social occupation as …n economic one." …RA defines six main …hich form the base …ich to launch a suc… retirement; apart …e mental attitude to …nt they comprise … finance (including …nefits), leisure acti… …ost-retirement work …and unpaid) and … live in retirement.

These topics predominate in the seminars conducted by the association, which takes a team of experts into the premises of some of the country's most enlightened employers to help to prepare their staff (and their wives) to seize the opportunity for fulfilment which retirement can offer in the years ahead.

Organizations using this service include Barclays and Midland banks, British Steel Corporation, Bovis, Debenhams and Marks & Spencer. Other employers follow the Civil Service example by granting time off during working hours for staff to attend pre-retirement courses. (Despite this example and the acceptance by the Department of Education and Science of the value of pre-retirement education, it does not yet aid the PRA financially.)

The eroding effects of inflation have undermined the confidence of workers regarding their standard of living after retirement. Inflation must be controlled if only to give the pensioner stability.

Employees approaching retirement appreciate an opportunity to receive expert unbiased advice on the advisability of commuting an occupational pension, investments, annuities, drawing an income from a mortgage raised against the value of their house, and the wide range of help which can be obtained from state sources. They are encouraged to make a will.

The recent easing of the earnings rule enables the newly retired to take on a part-time job and to earn up to £20 a week before the state retirement benefits are reduced. The PRA has long campaigned against the rule and will welcome total abolition. The very existence of the rule militates against society making full use of the vast reservoir of knowledge which the newly retired can offer.

After finance, health is the topic which is of chief concern. Doctors try to warn smokers of the health risks.

Health experts also advise against being over weight, and encourage pensioners to remain active by taking reasonable exercise. In these times of financial stringency it is surely a mistake for a company to allow its planners to reduce expenditure on sports facilities. Physical fitness affects the output of employees, and the Prime Minister of Canada is the latest convert to the doctrine of "fighting the flab". Companies which find their sports facilities are not being used to the full should consult the unions and find the reason why. Company pensioners would appreciate being able to use a heated swimming pool or gymnasium during normal working or off-peak hours.

I suspect, however, that one reason why doctors' surgeries are always well supported by the newly retired goes back to this question of adjustment. The realization that your previous employers are apparently able to continue in business without you is increased by the proof that you were not really indispensable. The victim can become fretful and resentful because he feels that he is an outcast from society, and that life has treated him harshly.

He can drift into loneliness and attendant self-pity which sow the mental seeds from which physical ailments can sprout. Here the person's mental attitude can reduce the physical resistance to ailments and the pensioner becomes a health risk. He will suffer from all sorts of aches and pains, and will catch whatever virus is the winter's fashion. The worst cases of maladjustment will simply fade away and die of a broken heart. Dr Beric Wright, chairman of the PRA and chief medical officer of BUPA, emphasises that "the right attitude of mind is an essential part of the survival kit".

Here, surely, is the nub of pre-retirement education. It is in the interests of the nation to ensure that everyone is well adjusted to the notion of retirement some years before it happens. We must all help the newly retired to continue to contribute to the community. By letting them know they are still needed, we help them to adjust to retirement and at the same time we help the country.

The association (a nonprofitmaking educational organization) produces specialist publications, and the association's magazine *Choice* is the only national monthly magazine which is specifically aimed at those approaching, planning and enjoying retirement.

Rights and wrongs of women

by Margaret Drummond

The trouble with women, as someone remarked, is that they are not men. That attitude is as true in pensions as it is in most other parts of a commercial and social environment where matters have traditionally been arranged in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the breadwinning male.

Mrs Barbara Castle's Social Security Pensions Bill included a number of clauses which were aimed, as she succinctly put it, at ending the situation of "second-class citizens entitled to third-class benefits". It established the principle of equal pensions for women. Other pieces of feminist legislation have a bearing on pensions, too.

The Equal Pay Act 1970, which comes into force later this year, the Employment Protection Bill and the Sex Discrimination Bill all in their various ways enforce the principle of equality in terms and conditions of employment, of which pension arrangements are an important aspect.

Mrs Castle went a stage farther. In April she asked the Occupational Pensions Board to investigate the treatment of women in occupational schemes. Its precise brief was "to consider in the light of the Government's proposals for the future of pensions and in particular their intention to end discrimination against women in occupational schemes what further steps are necessary, whether by way of legislation or otherwise, to implement the principle of equality of status for men and women in such schemes and to report".

There is a paucity of information about the experience of women in occupational schemes. What does exist is largely accounted for by the Government Actuary survey of pension schemes in 1971. That highlights a number of areas of discrimination, such as lower benefit levels for women under some schemes, lower lump-sum benefits on the death of a woman than for a married man, and differences in the treatment of dependants.

The key to much of the apparent discrimination lies in the actuarial assumptions that are used in pension calculations. Women not only retire officially at 60, five years earlier than men, but they live longer on average and therefore the pension funds consider them a more expensive proposition.

With all the chatter about equality, the pension funds could hardly fail to overlook the glaring fact that Mrs Castle made no alteration in the discriminatory retirement age. Moving the retirement age for women up to 65 was evidently not fair on those who were already in pension schemes. Bringing the retirement age for men down to 60 would have had a great deal to recommend it but Mrs Castle bluntly stated that neither the Government nor the occupational pension funds could afford it.

The differential, originally established in recognition of the fact that wives tend to be younger than their spouses, has perhaps some justification, even if it will not appeal to either the pension funds or the thoroughgoing feminist. That is the dual role taken on by the working wife and mother.

The five-year differential is, in a muddled sort of way, recompense for the fact that while the working husband may spend his evening watching football on television the working wife is more likely to be working out the week's menu in the kitchen. The accepted wisdom on longevity, which will be examined by the Occupational Pensions Board, might throw up a few surprises.

Mortality tables are based on very long-term trends which until now have demonstrated that women live longer. But one wonders whether women who work live longer. It is possible that the changes over the past decade, when the working wife has become a normal feature of the social scene, could have overturned that theory, although that would not necessarily be reflected yet in the long-term calculations used by the actuary.

Medical data, for instance, show a fast rise in the number of women contracting or dying from the supposedly "executive" diseases, such as lung cancer or coronary thrombosis, ailments associated with the stresses and strains of commercial life. It would not be surprising if the differential in the female mortality rate showed some signs of narrowing.

Those points affect women in occupational pension schemes. Arguably it is the women not yet invited to join schemes who are of prime concern to Mrs Castle and the feminist lobby, for pension rights are intimately bound up with the problems of independence and how to encourage it.

Some schemes do not exclude women specifically, but have entry requirements based on income that effectively disqualify the bulk of a female labour force. This is obviously a problem that must be solved along with inequalities in pay, but, as is relevant in the latter context, particular jobs, because of low pay, have become traditional women's work, thereby escaping the main provisions of the legislation.

The 1971 survey by the Government Actuary showed that more non-manual female employees than their male counterparts were excluded from schemes because of type of employment. The large proportion (a third) of part-timers in the female labour force is obviously another problem area. The Occupational Pensions Board is evidently seeking out whether a significant number of employers will, because of the general pattern of female labour, be able to continue on their discriminatory way within the terms of the new legislation.

The third aspect that Mrs Castle hopes to examine is the special arrangements that have to be made to accommodate the working woman, and her rights to a pension in the event of her leaving work to raise children. The earnings-related part of the state scheme will take the best 20 years of an employee's earning period, a provision that applies to both sexes but is one that probably has more importance for women.

The final, and rather stickier area, is the extent of a wife's right over the pension of her husband. Thus the Law Commission recommended that loss of pension rights be taken into account in divorce proceedings. A recent Gallup poll demonstrated an appalling state of ignorance on the part of wives over pensions and what their husbands' schemes might mean to them in the case of death or retirement.

INFLATION AFFECTS PENSIONERS

Hopes for long term

by Eric Brunet

Inflation can have serious effects on the finances of a final salary scheme, as the pensions which it is liable to pay increase, if there is no corresponding increase in the value of the assets which are held. In the last resort, however, no amount of inflation can leave a scheme worse off than a new scheme, with no accumulated fund, which offers pensions based on service before the scheme started as well as the period of membership of the scheme.

The problem is a serious one, but it is essentially short term. In the long term, the cost of running the scheme is bound to rise if the existing assets prove inadequate, but the maximum increase is perhaps 5 per cent or 10 per cent of pay roll, depending on the benefit being provided and other factors. In practice, the existing fund cannot become insignificant except in the more extreme conditions of hyperinflation, and the long-term increase in costs will be correspondingly lower.

Does this mean that all the fuss about pension scheme finances is just a storm in a tea cup? Unfortunately the position is neither so simple nor so hopeful. Inflation in itself may not be the menace it is painted, but it is in conditions of inflation that the relationship between the investment return and the increase in liabilities of a pension scheme is most likely to be upset.

This is what seems to be happening now. If earnings increase by 30 per cent, a fund needs to increase by that much, from a combination of interest earnings and capital appreciation, merely to keep pace. If there are schemes which achieve such a result this year, it will normally be only because values fell so sharply last year; over the two years taken together, or over a longer period, the results are much less encouraging. If inflation goes up 4 per cent a year more than the yield on investments, the cost of pensions, as a percentage of payroll, could double in the long term.

The present episode may be merely a passing phase; perhaps in the longer term inflation will fall sufficiently to restore the balance with the yield obtainable on investments, or investment returns may rise again after their recent fall. There will still have been a substantial additional financial burden on pension schemes, because of the effect of the events taking place, but the impact on their long-term viability will not be serious.

Part of the problem is that, when inflation is running at a high level, there is a general hope, or even expectation, that the rate will fall. As a result, the return available on new investments is lower, being related to the future hoped-for level of inflation rather than the present rate. The investing public at large is capable of deluding itself in this way over quite a long period; the longer it is before normal conditions are restored, the more convinced people may become that an improvement cannot be long delayed.

The Government encourages such an outlook. We can see, at the present time, the results of deliberate efforts by the Treasury to keep down the rate of interest paid on fixed interest investments: a higher rate of interest increases the cost of government borrowing. Moreover, it is politically dangerous for the Government to be seen to be incapable of controlling inflation, and ministers therefore encourage expectations of an imminent reduction in the inflation rate. We have seen how infrequently such expectations are realized.

There is another factor which operates in times of inflation: there are inevitable economic difficulties, with large sectors of the community suffering a real reduction in living standards. The instinctive reaction of the man-in-the-street in these conditions seems, not entirely logically, to save as much as he can and put off buying things he

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Money-purchase options should be encouraged

by John Sparks

A condition for contracting-out will be that a pension scheme provides pensions based on an annual accrual rate of not less than 1¼ per cent of final salary or of average salary revalued in line with the general level of earnings. The latter type of arrangement is rare, whereas the final-salary schemes have become the most popular.

They are most suitable for employees whose careers reach a climax at or near retirement but less suitable for those whose powers reach a peak much earlier and whose earnings decline in real terms towards retirement.

For those whose earnings are closely dependent upon physical strength or good eyesight or energy, drive and resource, a good case can be made for the "money-purchase" type of pension scheme. Under such a scheme, specific contributions are made every year for each member and the scheme benefits are related to the amount to which the *invested contributions* accumulate.

One attractive feature of such a scheme (which is why, in 1972, *Money Which* preferred money-purchase schemes to any others) is that when a person leaves service the money invested for him can remain in the scheme and continue to grow. However, it seems to have been decided that there is no way in which money-purchase schemes, as such, can be acceptable for contracting-out purposes.

Another important feature of a money-purchase scheme is that, unlike other types of scheme, different employers can participate in the same scheme even though they are independent financially. In that way large numbers of small employers, often making different percentage contributions, can participate in the same scheme and avoid the high administrative expense of each employer "going it alone".

Transfers between employers in the same scheme can easily be arranged without penalty. There are several well-established "*money-purchase*" *schemes*, like the Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund and the Solicitors' Clerks Pension Fund, which cover one industry; all that some other groups of employers have in common is that they are clients of the same insurance company or pensions consultant.

The previous government had tried to encourage the formation of centralized schemes to get as many people as possible covered by occupational pension schemes. It seems that unless some contracting-out provision can be made for money-purchase schemes they will tend to go out of existence and leave a large sector of employments not covered by occupational pension schemes.

What may seem extraordinary is that although contributions of only 6 per cent or 8 per cent of *employees'* earnings are being paid into a final salary scheme, the scheme may qualify for contracting-out. But no rate of contribution, however high, which is applied on a money-purchase basis can so qualify.

For a final-salary scheme, the question whether the *contributions being paid* will be sufficient to provide the final salary benefits promised by an employer seems to be fairly irrelevant under the provisions of the present Bill.

Is there then a solution for money-purchase schemes? I try to indicate below, first, how a money-purchase scheme could possibly qualify for contracting out if the existing principles of the Bill are retained and, second, why the Government should allow money-purchase schemes to have a more positive role in the partnership between state and private pensions.

Provided that a money-purchase scheme provides both a pension and a widow's pension it should be possible, as the government proposals stand, for the members to be contracted-out if their employer sets up a second scheme to "*make up*" the existing scheme benefits to the requisite contracting-out minima where necessary.

So long as the benefits under the money-purchase scheme are accruing in a satisfactory manner in relation to the statutory requirements it should be unnecessary for the employer to make any contributions to the "make-up" scheme until the time a member dies or leaves service, and then only, we would hope, in a few isolated cases.

By effecting such a "make-up" scheme the employer would become committed to final-salary pensions but that need be only in relation to earnings currently between £11.60 and £81.20 a week. However, by not contributing to the "make-up" scheme unless or until he has to, the employer can retain many of the advantages of having a money-purchase scheme.

As far as an industry-wide scheme is concerned, those employers who decide to contract-out could, while still participating in that scheme or a scheme identical to it, become parties to a separate "make-up" arrangement of a standard type. Transfers within that "inner circle" could easily be accommodated although it would probably be necessary to have a minimum percentage rate of contribution for inner circle employees. The percentage would be determined by actuarial valuations held at regular intervals.

Transfers from the outer to the inner circle could also be accommodated but transfers in the opposite direction could be accommodated only if a premium to the state scheme had also been paid.

So far, I have assumed that the contracting-out requirements remain, in principle, unchanged. But if the procedure suggested above is adopted, the money-purchase scheme will be subject to more restraints than the final salary scheme and will probably cost more. There seems to be generally an increasing tendency to promise more and fund less.

Often final salary schemes, among them the finest, are funded on bases which would not be the most preferred by actuaries. That might not be so unsatisfactory were it not that contracting-out, in the short term, reduces total pension costs most for those employers whose schemes are funded on the least conservative actuarial bases.

In contrast, money-purchase schemes are, by definition, fully funded and should be encouraged to continue and grow. It is only contributions that are actually paid to occupational pension schemes that can be applied towards the medium and long-term investment which is so essential for our future.

Facilities for top executives

by Norman Worley agency and marketing manager, National Provident Institution

Over the past 18 months, the subject of pensions has received more publicity and interest than at any time. Most attention, however, has been given to group schemes for employees. It is, after all, to improve the minimum pension benefits for all employees that the Labour Government and before it the Conservatives, have been concerned.

There are, however, two groups of people who for different reasons need to look beyond the company pension scheme set up for employees of a company. First, self-employed people are obviously excluded from pension scheme arrangements, as they have always been. *Second, the company pension scheme is not always* a suitable or an adequate arrangement for the directors of a company. It is with the special opportunities available to directors that this article is concerned.

For years, companies have been able to provide non-*controlling directors* and other key executives with pension schemes under favourable taxation circumstances. Such pension schemes were used either to provide retirement benefits for a key employee not covered by the existing company arrangements, or to top up the benefits of the company pension scheme where they are considered to be too low. In other words, the key staff were to receive superior benefits in line with their contribution to the company's success.

It is only recently, however, that controlling directors have been able to participate in such schemes. Until 1973, they were treated as self-employed for the purposes of pensions and so had to rely on self-employed retirement plans to provide their pensions.

Although the self-employed retirement plan offers the same types of benefit as the *company schemes*, for example pension and tax-free cash sum, such plans have one disadvantage from the point of view of the controlling director. He is limited in the amount he can contribute each year to £1,500 or 15 per cent of his net relevant earnings, which-ever is lower. Not only could a high earner find himself with an inadequate pension, but in any case it would be necessary to make contributions over a number of years for worthwhile benefits to *be built up*.

In the 1973 Finance Act, however, controlling directors became eligible for company pension plans, and their pensions status became that of "employed". Today pension plans for controlling directors have become about the fastest grow-*ing pensions sector*.

The retirement plans may provide a number of benefits—broadly a personal pension, a tax-free cash sum on retirement, a death in service benefit and a widow's pen-*sion before and after retirement*.

You have, also, the choice of defining final remuneration as either the average of three or more consecutive years' taxable income in the 10 years before retirement, or your remuneration for any one year in the five years preceding retirement.

Part or all of the pension may be taken as a tax-free cash sum, with a maximum of one and a half times your final remuneration, if you have been with your company for 20 years or more. For those who have worked in the company for shorter periods, a sliding scale operates. For example, 10 years' service gives a limit of 45 per cent of final remuneration as the cash sum.

The widow's pension may be up to two-thirds of the amount of your own pension, or, in the event of dying in service, two thirds of what that would have been if you had survived to retirement. In addition, a cash sum of up to four times your remuneration can be paid on your death in service.

Contributions are usually paid by the company, and are allowed as business expenses against the full corporation tax assessment. However, the employee may himself contribute, in which case his contributions rank for full income tax relief—at the highest rate he pays.

There are a further three tax advantages. First, the contributions to the scheme are all invested by a life office in a fund that is entirely free of tax. Second, the pensions, when they are paid, including those to widows, are taxed as earned and not unearned income. The cash sum paid at retirement is usually free of all tax. Third, the pension plans will *normally be arranged to* avoid any likelihood of capital transfer tax liability on lump sum death benefits.

In addition to the choice of a range of benefits, an important feature of directors' pension plans is their flexibility. The company may adjust the level of its contributions from year to year to ensure that prospective benefits increase in line with salary. Given that salaries can rise rapidly in a period of steep inflation, this is clearly a necessary feature.

There are a number of different types of plans available from life offices which *provide directors' pensions*. Broadly they fall into three main categories. First, the conventional endowment type contract which provides basic benefits with the addition of bonuses.

Second, there is the unit-linked approach, where the retirement benefits provided by premiums are invested in funds linked to equities, property, fixed interest or a mixture.

Finally, there is the more modern deposit administration type of contract, offered by few of the more progressive traditional life offices. Premiums paid to the life office are invested along with their other funds, and interest is credited as if there were a deposit account for each plan.

New Act will curtail abuses

by Sigmund M. Hyman president, S. M. Hyman Company

A new dawn for pension and retirement programmes in the United States arrived last year. On September 2, President Ford signed into law the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the first statement of a national public policy for pensions.

The adoption of the Act by Congress came after allegations of abuses against people responsible for investing pension fund assets. It was also said that workers had forfeited all benefits when employment was severed just before *their retirement or had lost* benefits because of inadequate funding when plans terminated. Although the abuses were real, they were few and far between and greatly magnified by the press and members of Congress. The Act set standards to curtail abuses.

History plays an important role in understanding today. Funded pension plans came into existence in 1859 when New York City established a retirement fund to cover its policemen; 16 years later the first occupational plan was adopted by the American Express Company. From those humble beginnings, the pension movement went slowly ahead. In 1901, the Carnegie Steel Company put into effect the first enduring plan in a manufacturing company. Railways and educational institutions followed suit, but industry lagged far behind.

Pensions were largely a matter of individual responsibility and, in many instances, followed a "human depreciation" theory that people wore out like machinery. Such arrangements were loose, unfunded and, in many instances, withdrawn.

It was not until after the Second World War that significant advances were made, stimulated primarily by the enactment of the Social Security Act of 1935 which provided a basic public pension system on to which private pensions could be economically added. Additionally, in 1949, the Supreme Court recognized pensions as legitimate issues in collective bargaining.

That, together with the increasing strength of organized labour, rising capital markets and the competition for skilled *labour, provided an additional* incentive. Employees began to recognize pensions as a "condition of employment", to be considered as additional remuneration *rather than gifts to faithful* workers.

During the 1950s, pensions became a political tool for trade unions. Abuses were publicized widely, as were company plans which failed because of inadequate funding, incompetence or self-dealing by fiduciaries. *Such occurrences were rare* but after much publicity Congress set about correcting all ills.

The main provisions of the new Act cover eligibility, vesting (preservation), actuarial funding standards, fiduciary standards and plan termination insurance. The Act provides that an employee must be enrolled no later than age 25 or after one year's employment, whichever is later.

Plans with immediate vesting (preservation) may require three years of employment as a prerequisite to enrolment. Three minimum vesting formulae provide that a worker must become completely vested after 10 years on the job; be entitled to 25 per cent of his accrued pension after five years, increasing 5 per cent a year for the next five years, and by 10 per cent for the following five years, resulting in fully-vested rights after 15 years; or become 50 per cent vested when age and length of service totals 45 years, or, if earlier, after 10 years of service. Full vesting is attained five years thereafter.

Minimum funding standards were established to make sure that fund assets were adequate to meet plan liabilities on an ongoing basis. In other words, contributions must be sufficient to meet both current costs and amortize past service liabilities over 30 years. In the absence of meeting such minimum standards or *maintaining* standard account balances, companies are obliged to make up any shortfall plus penalties.

To prevent loss of benefits in the event of plan termination, the Act established the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to ensure that vested benefits up to $750 a month payable at age 65 would be guaranteed. Under defined benefit plans, each plan must pay a per capita premium to the corporation to create sufficient reserves to meet the contingent liability.

Certain fiduciary standards were established for the conduct of any person *who has the power to control*, manage, direct disbursements, or otherwise dispose of plan assets, either on a discretionary basis or, in the absence of discretion, *who has responsibility for* the management of the plan.

The Act went on to define reporting and disclosure requirements which are to be sent to both the Department of Labour and to all plan participants. Such disclosure is to cover *plan provisions, financial* transactions, and parties involved in the administration of the plan. Plan participants should be informed of their rights and benefits, and the Act provides for that.

In addition, there are certain pension limitations for *highly-paid executives as well* as individual incentives for others. Self-employed people may deduct up to $7,500 a year or 15 per cent of earned income up to $1,500. Workers with no company retirement plans *may make* tax-deductible contributions to individual retirement accounts of 15 per cent of earned income up to $1,500 a year.

Is the Act necessary? Many authorities feel that the cost of reimbursing all benefits lost to participants due to plan termination would be less than the cost of establishing a bureaucracy in Washington to administer the problems. Others feel that the cost of vesting and substantially increased costs of administration will inhibit the growth of pensions in the United States.

Is the Act germane? Statistically, it has been shown that only one of four employees works 10 or more years with one employer. Therefore, only one of four employees will be helped. Since pensions are not mandatory, about 50 per cent of the work force is covered by pensions. Therefore, only one out of eight workers in the entire work force will be *aided. More* important, trends toward liberalized vesting (preservation) in the past 10 years have perhaps minimized the real number of workers whose position will be substantially improved by the Act.

Actuaries and consultants have long been aware of adequate actuarial standards to see to the proper funding of benefits. The number of exceptions are few, and abuses have been politically exploited.

Companies, their actuaries, consultants, accountants, solicitors, investment managers and other advisers are cynical and have adopted a wait-*and-see attitude. As* time passes, perhaps there will be another new dawn.

Hopes for the long term

continued from page VII

needs. This is so even if he effectively has to pay quite a high price, in real terms, to persuade someone to take his money.

All this is being reinforced by a change in the attitude of society towards investment. We have had controls over rents and over ordinary share dividends, although the Government has found itself compelled to relax its controls because of unintended side effects. Nevertheless, dividends are not permitted to increase as fast as the cost of living, and future increased government interference in this area is far from unlikely.

Another significant development in recent years has been the demand for pension funds and insurance companies to adopt other than financial criteria for deciding on investment opportunities. Obviously most investment managers and directors, trustees or administrators would avoid morally or socially objectionable investments, but the extension to political objectives or acceptance of a lower yield because an investment is socially desirable go far beyond the normally accepted responsibility of an investor.

Thus we have the demand to refrain from investment in any company connected with South Africa. Contributions to the Government's recent fund-raising operation for industrial loans have been made in spite of, rather than because of, the investment considerations. Proposals have been made for requiring investment in house purchase mortgages, an investment which is both low-yielding and inappropriate in form. The only *clear thing about Mr Benn's* recent proposals is their adverse effect on the freedom of investment managers to do their best.

In the last resort, if the financial balance swings, or has swung, too far against investment, employers will be unable to afford to maintain funded pension schemes. We have not yet reached that position, and if we ever do, there will be wider implications on a whole social and economic structure arising from the loss of the incentive to save, not only in pension schemes but also in other areas.

Pension schemes are likely to be among the last form of savings to disappear, because there are other reasons than purely financial ones for maintaining them. The security afforded to employees is an important consideration, and staff *relations* would suffer if schemes were wound up, particularly now that unions are taking a more lively interest in the subject.

What happens, however, if it becomes so expensive to save that even these considerations fail to carry weight? It does not mean that employees will all have to rely on whatever the state will provide.

In other countries, the concept of saving for future pension outgoings by setting aside separate assets is viewed with suspicion. This is, significantly, most notable in countries which have suffered from high rates of inflation in the past.

Tax-exempt funds are frequently neglected

by Margaret Stone

A frequently neglected area of managed funds and pensions is the tax-exempt funds which cater for the investment needs of pension schemes, charities and local authority pension funds, all of which are now totally exempt from tax, both income and capital gains, in respect of their portfolios.

Until last year the tax arrangements for local authority funds were slightly less advantageous, but in 1974 they too were made totally exempt. This change has given the few management groups, such as Save and Prosper, who ran exempt funds in both categories the chance to rationalize their activities by merging erstwhile local authority pension fund unit trusts with those private pension funds.

The range of funds in this market is as wide as the range of funds for private investors. There are straightforward equity funds and property unit trusts and the similar bond funds operated by many of the linked life assurers; then there are the managed funds embracing a mixture of equities, property and some fixed interest stock in their portfolios and the cash and fixed interest funds. A recent survey by Harris Graham and Partners, pensions specialists, indicated that there are 30 equity funds, nine fixed interest funds, 16 property funds and 15 mixed or managed funds.

The purpose of these funds is to provide a pooled investment for pension funds. On the equity and managed funds side, the emphasis lies mainly in supplying a broad spread of investments for smaller-funded pension schemes where the managers themselves neither have the expert knowledge to look after their own investments nor the resources to provide a well-balanced portfolio.

Managers or trustees of such pension funds are happy to hand over the effective day-to-day investment management of their pension fund by investing in a pension unit trust or bond fund. In most instances, the management companies will also supply the administration for the pension scheme as well. It is, however, an optional service not required by all companies.

The property unit trusts, however, tend to fall into a different category. These are, by and large, far more in the nature of a pension investment cooperative supported by some of the biggest pension schemes. They were formed because of the different nature of property investment which is a non-liquid and fairly inflexible form of investment requiring fairly large tranches of money to secure just one building.

The members of the property unit trusts have to invest in the funds in fairly large amounts and in return they have a far greater say in the management than is ever available to the holders of the tax-exempt equity funds. The property unit trusts are almost cooperatives and the members expect to be consulted about all investment decisions and through their own surveyors, and so on, will also make a positive contribution to the running of the funds.

Holding a property unit trust does not preclude the members from investing directly in property on their own account. Indeed, several large pension funds like to do both; the performance comparisons between their own property investment and that of the property unit trust is usually stimulating.

During 1974, the tax-exempt funds met the same problems as all other managed funds. The massive downturn in the equity market and the depression in the property sector had their inevitable repercussions on the tax-exempt funds. From figures prepared by Harris Graham and Partners, the average performance (or lack of it from the equity funds) showed a drop of 36.8 per cent against a drop of 51.5 per cent in the *Financial Times* all-share index. Property funds dipped by 20.2 per cent against a fall (not strictly comparable) in property shares of 50.6 per cent. The average fall in the mixed fund sector was 19.6 per cent.

Naturally considerable changes have taken place in the performance ratings of tax-exempt funds since the beginning of this year. The average equity fund rose by 44 per cent in the first quarter of the year. Because many of the funds were very liquid at the beginning of the year—cash had looked the best investment at the end of 1974—the funds were caught on the hop by the sudden upsurge in the stock market which sent the *Financial Times* all-share index up sharply by 80 per cent in the first quarter of the year.

Property unit trusts

Name	Month/Year launched	Consultant Surveyors and Agents	Finance house support
Australian Superannuation	2.72	Jones Lang Wootton	Capel Court Group
Barclaytrust International	2.74	Jones Lang Wootton, Richard Ellis	Barclaytrust
Charities	7.67	Jones Lang Wootton	Hambros, Schroder Wagg
Fleming	4.70	Allsop & Co	Robert Fleming
Grasshopper	9.68	Hillier Parker May and Rowden	Barclaytrust
Hanover	7.67	Knight Frank & Rutley	Samuel Montagu
Irish Pension Fund	11.67	Jones Lang Wootton	Guinness, Mahon
Lamit	4.72	The Local Authority Investment Trust	Local Authorities
Lazard	6.67	Pepper Angliss Yarwood, Weatherall Green & Smith	Lazard Brothers
M & G Local Authority	9.72	Goddard & Smith, Matthews & Goodman	—
Montagu Local Authority	4.72	Drivers Jonas	Samuel Montagu
Mutual	7.67	Edward Erdman & Co	Hill Samuel, Rothschild
Pan European	10.73	Jones Lang Wootton, Weatherall Green & Smith	Samuel Montagu
Pennine	3.69	Henry Spencer & Sons, Storey Sons & Parker, John Postlethwaite & Co	Guinness, Mahon
Pension Fund	3.66	Jones Lang Wootton	Hambros, Morgan Grenfell, Schroder Wagg
Pensions and Charities	1.69	Allsop & Co	Lloyds Bank
Public and General Superannuation	8.67	Jones Lang Wootton	Hambros, Schroder Wagg
St Martin's	10.66	St. Martin's Property Co	Warburg
Schroder	1.71	Weatherall Green & Smith	Schroder Wagg
Second Mutual	7.67	Edward Erdman & Co	Hill Samuel, Rothschild
Singer & Friedlander	5.74	Singer & Allsop, Jones Lang Wootton	Singer & Friedlander
Wyvern	4.67	Drivers Jonas	—

Source: Money, Management and Unitholder

Tax-exempt unit trusts

Performance over past 12 months and three years (both taken to May 8, 1975

trust	% change over one year	% change over three years
Metropolitan Exempt	31.0	5.3
Hambro Exempt	28.4	—
Barbican European	27.9	—
Unicorn Exempt	26.2	−13.4
Schroder Pen & Cha	14.4	−21.2
S & P Scotiaps	13.4	−16.5
Bridge Talisman Exempt	13.3	—
Target Exempt	9.7	−22.2
M & G Pension Exempt	7.8	−24.0
S & P Scotex Yield	7.8	−19.8
S & P Scotex Growth	7.1	−29.5
Morgan Gren Exempt	2.0	—
Oceanic Exempt	− 1.8	—
S & P Ebor Comm Pen	− 2.3	29.4
Tyndall Exempt	− 2.4	−38.2
Cabot Exempt	− 5.4	—
New Court Exempt	− 8.1	−22.6
Minster Exempt	− 8.5	−43.0
Key Exempt	−10.4	—
Schroder Special	−10.5	−51.0
Henderson Gross	−11.1	−42.1
Schroder Recovery	−14.4	−39.8
Tyndall Loc Auth	−19.3	−49.2
Slater Brit Exempt	−22.8	−25.9

Source: Money, Management and Unitholder

Financing the state scheme

by G. G. Newton

Although the contribution structure of the National Insurance scheme has altered fundamentally from the flat rate "actuarial" contributions payable at the start of the scheme to the present system of wholly earnings-related contributions for employees, the scheme has always been financed on the pay-as-you-go principle and the new scheme will also be financed on this basis. Under this system the contributions from insured persons, employers and the Exchequer are set at the levels necessary to provide the income to meet current expenditure, and no attempt is made to build up a fund corresponding to the capital value of the accrued benefit rights under the scheme.

The pay-as-you-go system of finance directly reflects the transfer of purchasing power from the working population to those not economically active on account of old age, sickness or unemployment which is brought about by a social insurance scheme and the schemes in almost all developed countries are financed on this basis. Under this system the rates of contribution payable at any time are not related to the level of benefits which the contributors will ultimately receive but are determined by the benefits in payment and the relative numbers of contributors and beneficiaries.

The rates of contribution are thus directly affected by changes in the age structure of the population. Over the past 25 years the proportionate increase in the numbers in the population over pension age has been some 40 per cent greater than in the numbers at the working ages and this has been largely responsible for the increases in contributions, in real terms, which have been required over the years to finance the present scheme. This aging of the population is mainly a reflection of past changes in level of births. Although mortality rates have been declining, the improvements at the older ages, particularly for men, have been relatively small and increasing longevity accounts for only a minor part of the change in the relative numbers of pensioners and contributors.

The most uncertain factor in any projection of the population is the number of future births, but this factor cannot have a significant effect on the relative number of pensioners and contributors in the population at dates less than 20 years ahead and estimates thus far into the future can be made with a fair degree of confidence. Thereafter, however, the size of the working population will become increasingly dependent on the level of future births.

The upward trend in the ratio of pensioners to contributors is expected to continue up to about 1980 with relatively little change in this ratio for a period of about 15 years thereafter, but the demographic position is expected to become more favourable towards the end of the century. Changes in the age structure of the population are thus not likely to have a significant effect on the rates of contribution required over the first 30 years of the new scheme.

The average level of benefits in payment, however, will increase steadily for many years. Under the new scheme pensions will be earnings-related with a basic component, corresponding to the flat-rate benefit under the present scheme (currently £11.60 a week), and an additional component calculated as 1¼ per cent of earnings above the level of the basic component up to the ceiling, for each year in the new scheme. The number of years to count will be limited to 20 to give a maximum pension of 25 per cent of average earnings in the relevant range, and for persons with more than 20 years membership the average will be calculated over the 20 best years. The effect is that the average amount of pension awarded will rise steadily over the first 20 years of the new scheme and it will be some 40 years before the great majority of pensions in payment will include an earnings-related component calculated at the full 25 per cent rate.

Estimates of the rates of contributions likely to be required over the years to finance the new scheme are given in the Government Actuary's report on the financial provisions of the Social Security Pensions Bill 1975 which also gives details of the assumptions on which the estimates are based and of the effects of variations in these assumptions. The additional expenditure compared with the present scheme will be relatively small in the early years and, but for the effects of contracting out, a rate of contribution little different from the 14 per cent contribution under the present scheme would be required initially.

By the end of 30 years, however, the rate would have risen to about 18 per cent with a likely further increase of the order of 20 per cent after 40 years. All the rates quoted relate to the total contribution payable in respect of employed persons and include contributions totalling about 3½ per cent payable for other than pension benefits.

The provisions for contracting-out for members of occupational pension schemes will have a major effect on the finances of the state scheme. The lower rates of contribution which will be payable in respect of contracted-out employees will result in an immediate loss of income which has to be made good by setting a higher general rate of contribution.

The corresponding saving in benefit expenditure, however, will build up only gradually over the years as the employees concerned come to retire and even when it reaches its full level the saving must be set against the loss of contributions from the next generation of contracted-out employees.

Get advice—and then act on it

by Peter Price managing director, C. T. Bowring & Layborn

So you want a pension scheme? Perhaps you do *not*, but almost certainly your workforce or their representatives do. Perhaps you have already got one but you, or your employees, want it improved. How do you set about it? Presumably you take advice.

Above all else the advice has to be competent and impartial. Both the consulting actuaries and the pension consultants have their own professional bodies who can provide the names of their members upon request.

Advice has to be paid for in some way or another. This will depend on the style of your adviser and ultimately the form of pension scheme taken: in basic terms either you will be asked to pay a fee direct to the adviser or he will receive commission from an insurance company which will be reflected in the premiums you are asked to pay.

Few established companies fail to run their own pension schemes; those who do will naturally have built up a fund of experience. But what of the company which is starting from scratch?

You have found a competent adviser and have established how you are going to pay for his services. What is the next step?

Obviously the company has to have a spokesman to talk to the adviser and that person's rank in the organization should be as high as possible. Pension schemes are complex and will often represent one of the most important contracts into which the company has entered, from the point of view of finance and *employee relations. If you* have a financial director and/or a personnel director, he or they should be involved.

What will they talk about? The adviser in the first place will want to have full details of any arrangements currently in force; know whether or not you have any preconceived notions of the scheme you should have or how much you should spend; obtain as much information as he can about your workforce, including the ages, earnings and past service of your employees, sub-divided between white collar and blue collar and between males and females.

Essentially the object at the first meeting will be to arrive at the position that the adviser can produce a plan, with variations, and with a cost for each variation. From there, matters will evolve by further discussion of benefits and acceptable costs and eventually a report will be submitted to the board of directors or other governing body for ratification. Matters which will arise in discussion include:

Those who will be included in the scheme—males and/or females (remember that the Pensions Bill now before Parliament insists on equal access for men and women); with or without age and service limits; white collar and/or blue collar.

Whether the pension benefit is to be related to service and average salary or final salary; whether it is to be related to future service only or all service; whether it automatically increases after retirement as a hedge against inflation; whether all categories of employee have the same benefit plan or whether differences are to be introduced; how it is to be related to state provision.

What dependants' benefits are to be provided—lump sums and/or pensions and if the latter, the question of post-retirement increases.

Who pays for the benefits—you, the employer alone, or you in conjunction with your employees? And how is the cost to be met?

It is beyond the scope of this article to expand on most of these items, but there are two on which I would say a little more, in that they are the principal pension topics in the present climate.

First there is the question of the state scheme. Impending legislation is never a good reason for putting off a new occupational scheme or improving an existing one and it does not matter that your adviser cannot, at the moment, say whether or not he will be able to recommend that you should contract-out of state provision.

The solution is to put in a scheme integrated with the state scheme, both from the point of view of benefits and members' contributions. If then you contract-out of the state scheme, your own scheme remains unchanged; if you stay with the state scheme, you cut back on your own scheme. Those who waited for the state to act in 1969, or even earlier, may be waiting yet, with the result that those of their employees who retired in this limbo period may well be drawing only the basic state pension plus supplementary benefits.

The second important point is that, if you adopt a final salary scheme—and for state integration purposes you are likely to do so—your adviser must make sure you fully understand the cost implications. The assumptions to be made in estimating the likely cost must be realistic—you must know what these assumptions imply and you must understand how seriously profits could be affected if these assumptions proved to be too optimistic in the long term. You must, therefore, consider how best to limit your liability.

Having decided on your scheme and the costing methods, you will have to decide with your adviser the extent to which it is to be insured and the extent, if any, to which it is to be operated privately and, in each of these areas there are a number of subsidiary decisions to be taken, but these again are beyond the scope of this article. It must be emphasized, however, that these are major issues and that no matter how much help your adviser gives you, at the end of the day it will be for you to make the decisions in the light of the advice given you and of your own judgment.

If you decide, in whole or in part, to operate privately you will, with your adviser, discuss the choice of further advisers for investment, legal and actuarial services in addition to continuing consultancy and possible administration services.

Having got this far you reach the all important stage of employee communication and this will probably have been preceded by negotiations with the representatives of your employees—in particular the trade unions. After the conclusion of any such negotiations, and the incorporation of any agreed amendments into the scheme, your adviser should then guide you on the question of how to present the scheme to your employees.

There are all sorts of ways of doing this, but the usual method is by issuing each employee with an explanatory booklet and holding meetings at which the scheme is presented, perhaps with visual aids.

High cost of giving and dying

by Vera di Palma

Although the capital transfer tax affects us all, the older we get the more urgent it becomes to consider the tax cost of giving and dying. Estate duty was not so bad. It was so easy to avoid that its opponents caustically labelled it a voluntary tax. While so far we have little practical experience of its replacement, it would seem that nothing short of evasion—and that is illegal—will enable an individual with a sizable estate to dodge the capital transfer tax entirely.

The tax is calculated on a cumulative basis, starting with gifts made during one's lifetime (after March 26, 1974) and culminating with the property (I use the term loosely to cover all types of assets) passing on death, unless any falls into the non-exempt category.

There are two sets of rates, one for gifts made during lifetime, the other for property left behind on death. Preference is given to lifetime gifts, which are taxed at half the death rates up to £100,000, with a subsequent narrowing down up to £300,000. After that the rates run parallel.

There are a number of exemptions from the tax and, although some of them are modest in amount, they can add up to substantial tax savings over the years, even for those now retired. Bearing in mind the lower rates for lifetime gifts and the exemptions, it follows that just as it was necessary for estate duty to have a planned campaign for disposing of wealth both before and on death, so it is with the new tax.

But the strategy which was required for estate duty is not necessarily appropriate now, and it is particularly important that those in retirement or about to retire should pause to consider whether a redeployment of resources is, or will be, desirable.

Like it or not—and so many are reluctant to get to grips with reality—it is essential to make a will both in the interests of tax planning and in the interests of one's dependants, who will be able to achieve a speedier administration of the estate if they are not burdened with intestacy.

Those who, over a year or so ago, made a will for estate duty purposes may well find it needs to be revised in the light of the new legislation. Under estate duty there was a special exemption up to £15,000 if property was left to the surviving spouse, but that was the limit of the generosity.

There was one other way of securing an exemption, but it was a long-term benefit rather than an immediate one. It was to leave property in trust for life to the surviving spouse, the remainder being left to others, normally the children. Under this arrangement the funds were exempt from estate duty on the death of the second spouse, so that they eventually passed to the children burdened by only one payment of duty instead of two.

Many wills will have taken advantage of the "surviving spouse exemption" as it was called, but it is superfluous now from a tax planning point of view. The reason is that all gifts between husband and wife are exempt for capital transfer tax without limit, whatever form they take, and whether they are made during lifetime, bequeathed by will, or passing under the laws of intestacy.

In view of the way the tax rates rise with each slice of property, it does not follow that the most beneficial plan is to leave everything to the surviving spouse at the expense of the children. If tax is the only consideration, it is normally preferable to aim for an equalization of the estate between husband and wife and each leave their separate halves to the children.

Other exemptions include a number of modest lifetime gifts and these will affect the majority of pensioners. There is an annual exemption of £1,000 with an additional £100 to each individual. Two others have been carried over from estate duty. One of them is regular gifts which can be regarded as part of the donor's normal expenditure.

There is no fixed monetary limit but the amount must be reasonable in relation to income and must not diminish the donor's standard of living—constraints which might be more difficult to meet on a depleted post-retirement income. Gifts made in contemplation of the recipient's marriage are exempt up to £5,000 to one's own child, £2,500 to a grandchild, £1,000 to others. As each spouse is treated as a separate person, all these exemptions apply to both.

For those who can afford to be public spirited, whether during lifetime or on death, there are a number of possibilities for unloading one's wealth free of the tax, such as giving to charities, political parties (the Government looks after its own), the British Museum and many others.

If a gift is not within one of the exemptions then, generally speaking, it is cheaper to give during life rather than on death because of the preferential rates.

A gift then during lifetime can attract capital transfer tax at the lower rates but also capital gains tax. On the other hand, if the gift is deferred until death, it will attract capital transfer tax only, albeit at the higher rates, but the amount of the latter could well be smaller than the sum of the former.

It will depend on the size of the capital gain (and retirement relief will to some extent diminish it so far as a business is concerned) but, if it is substantial, there could be a tax saving in deferring the gift until death—not that this is in the spirit of the legislation.

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TALE OF TWO SISTERS

great inflation presents great ional problems; it also prets acute personal problems. w is the individual to look r his own affairs and those his family, once money has sed to be a store of value ? particular, since it is still the st personal decision, how can individual look after his own nces ? For many individuals, ticularly those retired on d pensions, there is a bitter ty even in asking that stion, but many others can rmine their own financial

ne should remember the e of the two sisters. Their er died just after the end of war leaving each £1,000 of Consols. One left the money Old Consols; the other sold Old Consols and used the osit to buy a £3,000 house in th London. The wise sister long since paid off her £2,000 rtgage on a house now worth ,000. The foolish sister still the Old Consols which are th £167.50. That is a possible erence between good and bad estment in a thirty year period milder inflation than we now e. It is a difference of more n 225 to one.

he investor who wants to tect himself has to decide r rapid he expects inflation be. At present the twelve nth rate of inflation is over per cent and the last six nths rate is over 30 per cent. three years 20 per cent lation would produce a rise prices of about 73 per cent 1 30 per cent inflation a rise about 119 per cent. A prudent is for personal investment uld therefore be the expectan that British domestic prices l have doubled by mid-1978, l that wages and salaries will east have kept pace with that. g investment which cannot be ected to double by the second f of 1978 is by that measure dequate.

ressure

During this period there will probably be at least one is like that of 1974 in which, le prices are still rising, the ks are short of money, and pressure even on well ured overdrafts. The first rules should therefore be: Do not invest in cash, as osed to holding it for subsent investment.

Do not expose yourself to essive short term borrowing. ideal for the individual, ld probably be to hold ugh cash to cover future mitments for a year or so d, but to have any debts in rm which is as long as can arranged, even at a higher rest rate. This period of ation will be very unstable. ng is still very important, gh difficult, but any cash is saved should be coned rapidly into a better state alue.

w can the individual keep savings in safety ? Obviously in any fixed interest form, except for his immediately available cash requirements. At present undated British Government stocks yield just over 15 per cent; leaving tax out of account, they show a true negative yield of 5 per cent on the most favourable estimate of inflation. In general life assurance is subject to the same objection; the current yield on life assurance is a true negative yield of 10 per cent or higher, and as most insurance companies invest heavily in fixed interest securities, the underlying assets are not at all likely to keep pace with inflation. This is not equally true of the investment policies of the companies; life assurance against a house purchase loan may well be worth taking out. Pension funds also depend very much on their investment policies, which have not all been realistic.

Best asset

The first and best asset for the individual is his house, and the more modest the house, the more reliable the asset. If in three years prices and wages double, the basic house will either nearly double or more than double with them. Basic house prices are determined by the wage levels both of those who buy and those who build them. This gain can safely be increased by borrowing on a building society mortgage, or by borrowing from an insurance company against endowment assurance. A man who buys a £12,000 house with £3,000 of his own money and £9,000 of building society money will probably have a £25,000 house by late 1978; his own equity will have increased to £16,000 (an increase of 433 per cent in nominal terms, or of 166 per cent in terms of constant money) for the cost of the interest on the mortgage.

All investments in equity shares should be analysed in terms of earning power and real assets, and particularly in terms of real assets as they would be valued outside this country. Overseas earning power will rise broadly proportionately to a decline in the pound, the replacement cost of plant and equipment will rise broadly proportionately to British labour costs, but domestic earning power could well be interrupted by the process of inflation itself. No company's shares should be held when the company itself does not have ample financial strength; in an inflation solvency is always in question. In general the yield gap between ordinary shares and fixed interest stocks reflects the lower historic rates of inflation but not current rates. Some equities at least will double again by 1978, if not the whole market.

Property should be considered in the same way. The great weakness of commercial property is that it depends on the level of domestic business activity; empty offices, as in Manhattan, mean cheap rents. On the other hand the harvested value of a field of barley will always be based on its world market value; if the pound falls against the dollar, the value of a field of barley, or a field capable of growing barley, will rise. In effect commercial buildings gain their value from the domestic economy, residential property from the level of domestic wages, and farm land from the world price of farm products.

For that reason farms and houses are a better anti-inflationary investment than offices or shops. Houses are better than farms because they are much less vulnerable to political action; the landowner, as opposed to the owner-farmer, has an immovable asset which is an easy target for tax and other unfavourable legislation; the house-owner is protected by all the other houseowners, whose combined political might is usually irresistible.

In an inflation people also buy works of art and gold. The immediate outlook for the world gold price is dull, because world inflation is slowing down; the outlook for the British gold price is more favourable, because the gold premium is still well below the dollar premium. Gold is therefore a cheap way to attach oneself to an international standard of value, but the world price is more likely to fall than rise in coming months.

Works of art, and particularly those with international standing, are also a cheap way to attach oneself to an international standard of value. In their case there is no premium to be paid, though considerable judgment is needed; dealing costs are always high compared to gold, property or equity shares. They are probably the most effective anti-inflation investment, but only for the very skilled investor. Gold and works of art are also non-productive; the equity investor contributes his savings to the capital development of his country.

Every right

The individual has every right to protect his savings against the expropriation of inflation. There is a simple test to apply to the question of investment in inflation. If the pound were to disappear, to be inflated out of existence, what would an investment be worth in dollar or Deutsche Mark terms ? With a fixed interest security, the answer is zero. If the pound were worth nothing, an income in pounds would be worth nothing. With an equity investment the answer is something, perhaps overseas trading companies would be worth more than now. Houses could still be lived in and could be sold for value in whatever money was used. Land would still grow food, and the food and the land would still have value. With gold or paintings or furniture, the European or dollar price does not depend on the British market. The pound is not going to zero, but at present rates of inflation no investment makes sense for the individual which would not survive if it did.

ASHINGTON APOLOGIZES TO BANGKOK

oked over the weekend as if rican relations with Thailand run into serious trouble. ent demonstrators were ntaining an angry vigil outthe American embassy in kok. The Thai ambassador Vashington was ordered to home and Mr Kukrit oj, the Prime Minister, was nding an immediate ogy from the Americans for use they had made of air s in Thailand in the course escuing the Mayaguez from Cambodians. Anyone fearful the collapse in South Vietand in Cambodia would infect an unstable Thailand l easily have pointed to this urst of anti-American feeling warning sign of yet another try ready to throw overd its western sympathies and leftwards with the tide.

r the moment such fears be set aside. The Americans apologized and the Thai ssador in Washington, h recalled for consultations, urning to his post. The pro made by the Thai Prime ster three weeks ago that rican troops should be withn from Thailand by the end 76 can now be discussed at e. It should not present any em for the Americans. Most of the twenty thousand Americans still in Thailand are manning the air bases from which bombing raids have been mounted for years past over Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam. With the end of the war in Vietnam the Thai bases are no longer necessary. Yet a precipitate withdrawal in face of an angry demand from the new Thai government could only have sharpened the sense of defeat in Washington. Though logical militarily it would have looked damaging politically.

Yet seen in perspective Thai emotions are quite comprehensible. For years Thailand's military rulers were firmly anti-communist and thrived on American aid. In October, 1973, they were surprisingly overthrown. The country relished its new political freedom and tried to define its new independence. A constitution in 1974 prepared the way last February for Thailand's first democratic elections for nearly thirty years.

These internal developments were matched by new external policies of which the most obvious were the approaches to Peking that followed naturally on Washington's own détente with China. A less outright anti-communist line was also adopted in Thailand's relations with her neighbours. The final collapse in Cambodia and in Vietnam, both countries of direct concern to Thailand, served to speed up the process. The Mayaguez affair thus struck a country ill-prepared for it and more than usually sensitive about its own sovereignty. Add the ingredient of a traditionally anglophile Prime Minister and the anger at American bruising of Thai sensibilities becomes quite explicable.

In fact the roots of Thai nationalism are much less deep than they are elsewhere in Asia for the very reason that the Thais escaped foreign rule when all around them were colonized. But they exist and should not be ignored or flouted as they were last week. The temperament of the country is not, however, one that veers to extremes. A communist Thailand is almost unthinkable. Such guerrilla pockets as exist in the north-east and elsewhere lie outside the country's centre of gravity. One might therefore retain some confidence in Thailand's capacity to adjust to the new governments in Phnom Penh and Saigon while serving, in doing so, as a useful link between Indo-China and her own friends in the rest of south-east Asia.

parison with Weimar

Professor Agnes Headlam-y

s Mr Adam Fergusson points our issue May 2) the effects netary inflation vary only in e. But as regards the causes not, I think feasible to comthe present position in this y with that of the Weimar lic from 1919-1923. Germany uffered defeat in war, her ces were seriously depleted. true that successive govern failed to raise sufficient taxes er expenditure. The actual paid in reparations across the ge were not large but they nstitute an absolute loss. They t comparable to the deficit curred for the import of oil. tastrophic fall in the mark in was due to the passive resistin the Ruhr following the occupation. Germany lost oduce of her richest industrial area, but in addition the Reich Government paid the unemployed workers with printed paper money. When Stresemann called off the passive resistance the value of the current paper mark could be assessed in billions of gold marks or equivalent foreign currency. The new Rentenmark was maintained by drastic limitation of issue and by the negotiation in the Dawes Plan of a reparations settlement based on a reasonable assessment of capacity to pay. Fortunately our present circumstances are in no way comparable.

It is true that General von Seekt hoped to establish himself as a military dictator. In this he failed. The Luther-Stresemann government skilfully used the Reichswehr to end political revolt, from the extreme right and the extreme left in Bavaria and Saxony. The short period of Emergency Government can scarcely be described as a military dictatorship. It led on to a successful period of parliamentary rule which lasted till the economic crises in the 1930s.

Yours faithfully,
AGNES HEADLAM-MORLEY,
29 St Mary's Road, SW19.

Christmas postage

From Mrs M. W. Vallance

Sir, What a splendid suggestion Mr Tarbat (May 16) makes. If the Post Office feels it is not practical to make a concessionary rate for cards next December, perhaps it might allow such a rate for old age pensioners. Just 10 stamps for each pensioner would be a cheerfulness: Perhaps they could be a copy of the original postage stamps—and dare I suggest—the same (or similar) price.

Yours faithfully,
MARY VALLANCE,
37 South Street,
Durham City.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

University teachers' action over pay

From Dr D. H. Michael

Sir, As a university teacher I read with dismay your account (May 17) of the council meeting of the Association of University Teachers, at which it was resolved to recommend members to withhold examination results. I share the concern felt by my colleagues that the relative conditions of service of university staffs have been seriously eroded in recent years, and I support the efforts made by the association to maintain, by representation and negotiation, the material status of university teachers. However, in this recommendation the association seeks to damage the wellbeing of the group whose interests it is our prime duty to serve, and in so doing it is I believe seriously damaging the good name of our profession.

University teachers stand in a special position of trust towards our country. We have within our ranks leading figures in many of our national activities, but alas we have been placed in a crucial position of influence over the younger generations of talented men and women to whom our people will look for leadership later in their lives. How important it is therefore that we ourselves should continue to set the highest example of personal service.

I believe that the deterioration we see in our national life has come about largely because many of our people do not now recognize that satisfaction and fulfilment in life are found in the service we render our community, rather than by the extreme, almost hysterical preoccupation with the level of our monetary rewards that we are now witnessing. This is why I and, I would hope, the large majority of my colleagues, repudiate this misguided recommendation.

There may be times, as at present, when we feel that our services do not receive the rewards they merit, but I would like to think that our universities will help to give a lead to our national revival by setting the highest example of dedication to our duties in these difficult times.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. MICHAEL,
Mathematics Department,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1.
May 18.

From Professor Eric A. Ash

Sir, The Association of University Teachers is advising academics to withhold the results of the university examinations this summer. The students concerned are of course those who we have ourselves selected to learn with, perhaps even from us. Their use as hostages in a shooting war with Mr Prentice gives rise to a somewhat displeasing image. Whilst I have no doubt that we could rise to the challenge of rationalizing our actions—with deep regret but for a greater good, the longer view, etc—I fear that the AUT strategy is also deficient in another way. It would not work.

At least in those university departments where the wisdom imparted is not totally without bearing on the more visible needs of society, those about to graduate are already likely to have found positions in industry or commerce. Our failure to announce the examination results will not dismay their chosen employers. There are, however, a small number of students who would be strongly affected—those who have accepted an invitation to remain at their university to engage in research. Normally their support by bodies such as the Science Research Council depends on the attainment of a sufficiently high standard in the degree examination. If this information is withheld they will not be able to start on a research project and the academic staff will be deprived of the chance to work with them. The AUT strategy offends the primary rule of any striker—that the pain should be greater to others than to himself. Our militancy would have much in common with that of an angry child who stamps his little right foot—on to the left.

Professor Beckerman's observation that many university towns are in marginal constituencies is surely more pertinent.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC A. ASH,
Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering,
University College London,
Torrington Place, WC1.
May 19.

From Professor John Griffith

Sir, It is not often that I agree with the Provost of University College London. But I also hope that university teachers will not take any action harmful to students.

Lord Annan does not suggest any positive alternatives. Much the best seems to me to be our withdrawal from all forms of government service (paid or unpaid) until the salary claim is settled. Lord Annan could lead the way by immediately suspending his chairmanship of the Committee on the Future of Broadcasting.

Yours truly,
J. A. G. GRIFFITH,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Extradition law

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and Mr Richard Plender

Sir, It is now more than a century since the Extradition Act was passed. Recent experience in extradition proceedings demonstrates the need for a thorough review of the whole subject of the return from one country to another of fugitives from criminal justice.

In the past 100 years the Extradition Act, 1870, has become encrusted with amendments and subsidiary legislation to such a degree that it can be arduous to determine the state of the law in relation to a particular jurisdiction or crime. The task of construing the Act and its related treaties and Orders in Council has become ever more daunting over the years. For example, changes in the character of the states with which the United Kingdom concluded extradition treaties in the late nineteenth century have given rise to the greatest uncertainty as to the subsistence and territorial application of some such treaties.

The system set up by the Extradition Act applies in relation to foreign states only; modern legislation governs the return of fugitives between this country and Ireland, Commonwealth countries and United Kingdom dependencies. We are inclined to ask whether there is rational justification for the many differences of detail between these parallel systems. Why, for example, should a fugitive be amendable to surrender to a Commonwealth country only if his offence would actually constitute a crime if committed in England, whereas this conditions does not apply in the case of a fugitive from a foreign state ?

Furthermore, some of the provisions of the Extradition Act which have been incorporated into the more modern legislation seem better suited to Victorian than to contemporary conditions. Is it any longer appropriate for the courts to determine who are entitled to asylum and freedom from the criminal process applying in the countries in which they commit their crimes ? Could not the objects of conferring immunity from extradition on political offenders be better met exclusively by the exercise of the Home Secretary's discretion ?

We suggest that it is high time the Government set up a departmental committee to consider the law of extradition in a world where people travel so readily and quickly from one country to another.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
RICHARD PLENDER,
Goldsmith Building,
Temple, EC4.

Reporters' courage

From Brigadier Lord Ballantrae

Sir, As nobody else seems to be doing it, I would like to express on behalf of many of us our admiration of the courage shown by reporters in every medium during recent events in Vietnam and Cambodia.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BALLANTRAE,
Auchairne,
Ballantrae, Aryshire.
May 16.

Ulster coalition

From Miss A. C. Hannay

Sir, The unqualified, unanimous and surprising condemnation by the media of the United Ulster Unionist Council, is surely a sad commentary on present day political morals in England. The UUUC, a coalition party guided by a very efficient co-ordinating committee, has, as yet, done nothing more wicked than win an election and declare its intention of keeping its election pledges.

It was voted into the Convention on two pledges—union with England to be maintained, "power-sharing" with Republicans to be refused. As, according to statistics from Sydney Elliott's Northern Ireland Parliamentary Results, Republicans, even in 1973, were only a minority of a minority, to deny them the most highly paid offices in a local regional government would not seem unreasonable to an objective observer. But the media, apparently horrified at the idea of keeping an electoral pledge, seems to have become quite hysterical on the subject.

It is not perhaps insignificant that the two most media-hated men in the country are Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Enoch Powell. Mr Benn is doing no more than keeping his electoral pledges and whatever one may think of these one must respect his honesty. Mr Powell preferred to resign from his party and give up his seat than break his electoral pledges; his honesty also calls for respect.

Could it possibly be that the great media itself has got its values all wrong, and is as responsible as the much feared "power of the trade unions" for the mess the country is in at present ?

Yours truly,
A. C. HANNAY,
Glencairn House,
Rostrevor, co Down.

Babies for burning

From Mr Martin Mears

Sir, The criticisms made against the book Babies For Burning may obscure (and are intended to obscure ?) the fact that the vast bulk of the extremely grave allegations in it remain virtually unchallenged—not, one may surmise, because of any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the critics but simply because they are unchallengeable.

The sum of the allegations is that the private abortion industry is run by corrupt people for their own profit and without interest in or regard for the welfare of the unfortunate women involved. Named bodies and persons, including those with medical qualifications, are accused of being (inter alia) abortion touts, incompetent, fraudulent, illegal providers of abortions on demand, and without professional integrity.

Now these allegations may or may not be true, but the fact is that they have been made against at least 20 named bodies and persons. Of these bodies or persons only two, I understand, have brought libel actions against the News of the World (where the allegations were first made) and only one of these actions is active. Three actions have been brought against the publishers of the book of which it appears only one is active. All of three applications for injunctions made to prevent publication of the book were unsuccessful and in two instances the unsuccessful applicants paid the publisher's costs as well as their own.

It could hardly be more evident, therefore, that the book has made out a prima facie case which ought to be investigated. One is entitled to wonder about the good faith of all those eminent people who seem so anxious that the case be not even looked into.

Yours truly,
MARTIN MEARS,
92 High Street, Gorleston, Norfolk.

Referendum issues: trading balances

From Mr Nicholas Fallon

Sir, It is odd if as Mr de Chair says (May 16) no-one has questioned Mr Shore's account of our trading deficit with our EEC partners. The figure Mr Shore has given, £2,200 million in 1974, can be seen as the difference between imports and exports in his department's publication Overseas Trade Statistics. It is explained there however that exports are recorded under "the country of destination, the final country" whereas imports are recorded under "the country from which the goods are consigned, which is not necessarily the country of shipment, origin or manufacture".

A single item may make the point clear, and alone accounts for one-eighth of Mr Shore's deficit. Imports of crude oil from the Republic of Ireland are recorded as rising from £16 million in 1972 to £274 million in 1974. But there are no leprechauns pushing up the black gold; only Bantry Bay distributing bulk shipments from the Middle East. It has been estimated that altogether the rise in oil prices accounts directly for a quarter of Mr Shore's figure.

There are surely many other goods of more distant origin which appear in our statistics as EEC imports—other countries manage to record imports by origin. Possibly there is some connexion between the large increase in EEC grain imports and the prolonged closure of the Merseyside grain dock, while the rapid increase in world container traffic and the frequent troubles in the Port of London may have produced other distortions in our EEC statistics. Perhaps someone can tell us; meanwhile Mr de Chair and others may be assured that Mr Shore's figure is not our EEC balance of trade, as the term is generally understood, but a fabrication of departmental convenience.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS FALLON,
2 Lansdowne,
Carlton Drive, SW15.
May 17.

From Mr Peter Blaker, Conservative MP for Blackpool, South

Sir, Mr de Chair (May 16) says that nobody has successfully challenged Mr Peter Shore's claim that we have a trading deficit with the other members of the EEC of about £2,000m a year. True. But what many of us in the House of Commons have challenged is his innuendo that the cause of this deficit is our membership of the Community. Though invited time and time again to say what in his opinion is the cause, he has avoided answering the question while continuing to give maximum publicity to the figure.

In October last year the official publication of his department, Trade and Industry, listed a number of reasons for the deficit, but did not include among them our membership of the Community. Mr Shore has never repudiated the analysis given there.

The main reasons for the size of the deficit are growth in demand and output in 1973, which sucked in imports; the economic problems in 1974 following the miners' strike and three-day week, which did the same; the fact that many foodstuffs have been cheaper to buy in the EEC than elsewhere (which has reduced our deficit with the world); and the increased cost of refined oil products from Holland and Belgium. Some of these factors have applied to our trade with the rest of the world which explains why our deficit with some other areas has increased more rapidly than with the EEC.

Mr Callaghan on December 18 last told the House of Commons that in his opinion our membership has made little difference to our trading balance with the EEC one way or another. In answer to a recent letter from me the Prime Minister has replied saying he agrees with Mr Callaghan.

Mr Shore's preferred alternative to the EEC is apparently a free trade arrangement with the same countries. He has never satisfactorily explained how this arrangement, even if attainable, would improve our trade balance with them compared with a Common Market. Perhaps he will now come forward and do so through your columns.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BLAKER,
House of Commons.
May 17.

"Don't know"

From Professor C. D. Harbury and Dr D. W. Hitchens

Sir, We, amongst many others, were opposed to entering the EEC during the 1971 debate. The main reason was that the economic and political advantages and disadvantages were decidedly uncertain. At the time there seemed no clear case for taking the step.

Today, the situation has changed only in one respect. We have been members of the Common Market for a little over two years. There seem to us to have been, as yet, no substantial obvious benefits or detriments to this country. The current debate is about short-run gains and losses and still hangs heavily on unreliable predictions about the long-term larger issues.

A vote to leave the EEC now is likely to be irreversible; for one can hardly expect the other members to receive a future application for re-entry enthusiastically. Yet, the case for remaining in the Common Market a little longer to assess at least the middle-term effects is, in our view, overwhelming.

The current debate has become highly emotional and no one is sufficiently well-informed to decide rationally how to vote. It is probably too late for Parliament to change its mind and defer the referendum. However, we suggest that a third alternative be put on the ballot paper—"Don't Know". If the government would accept a majority of "Don't Know" votes as a sign that it should hold another referendum later, it could allow time for the effects of our sustained membership to be assessed with at least a modicum of reliability.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. HARBURY,
D. W. HITCHENS,
The City University,
St John Street, EC1.
May 16.

Uses of exorcism

From Professor G. Lampe

Sir, Dr T. M. Parker (May 17) seems to have misunderstood the reference to Anglican tradition in the "65 academics'" open letter on exorcism. We did not forget that Canon 72 of 1604 recognized the bishop's authority to license the practice; but we pointed out that it is most difficult to discover actual instances of the canon being applied.

Exorcisms did take place, but so very rarely and in such an obscure fashion as to justify our contention that exorcism "is alien to the whole tradition of our Church". Even Canon 72 itself (which was discarded in the recent revision of canon law) can scarcely be said to "admit and regulate the practice of exorcism" in the positive way suggested by Dr Parker's letter. Its purpose is not to commend licensed exorcism but merely to forbid unlicensed. The relevant part reads: "Neither shall any Minister . . . presume . . . without such licence, to attempt upon any pretence whatsoever, either of possession or obsession, by fasting and prayer, to cast out any Devil or Devils, under pain of the imputation of imposture or cosenage, and deposition from the ministry".

The historical evidence for our assertion that the Church "has never expected that her members must necessarily share all Jesus' beliefs" begins with the New Testament. According to the records Jesus lived and worked within the framework of Jewish observances and shared some of the eschatological expectations which found expression in Jewish apocalyptic. The Church, nevertheless, soon abandoned the former and greatly modified the latter.

"Finally", asks Dr Parker, "must a lifelong student of medieval thought protest once again against the popular assumption that the Middle Ages, which did much to develop natural science, had a 'pre-scientific outlook'" ? He complains, further, that "one does not expect such historical errors from academics".

I do not understand what relevance this has to our open letter, since at no point does it mention a "pre-scientific outlook", nor does it contain any reference whatever, explicit or implicit, to the Middle Ages. Had we wished to do so, we might perhaps have said (and this would have been as true as any generalization about a whole period of history can be) that most people in the Middle Ages did have a pre-scientific outlook in so far as they believed in the existence of demons. But since, in fact, we made no observations on this subject of any kind it looks regrettably as though Dr Parker wrote a severe public criticism of a document without first taking the trouble to read it.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY LAMPE,
The Divinity School,
St John's Street,
Cambridge.

Art in Country houses

From Mr John Morley

Sir, May I, as director of a fairly large and comparatively well equipped institution, make a comment on Mr Fuller's article (May 10).

Provincial museums, with their scanty resources, various forms of control and almost complete lack of national financial support, are completely unprepared to receive a flood of great works of art. It is folly to attempt to foist a national responsibility on to local government's shoulders without preparation or calculation of the consequences. Nor can I believe that my fellow curators would welcome accessions, however magnificent, that were acquired at such a cost.

English country houses and their collections are entities of far more cultural and historical significance than are the provincial museums, and it should be the national policy to preserve them as entities.

Yours truly,
JOHN MORLEY, Director,
Art Gallery and Museums and The Royal Pavilion,
Brighton.
May 16.

Tank warfare

From Lieutenant Colonel S. I. Howard-Jones

Sir, I read with dismay an article by Mr Philip Howard entitled "A Pioneer of Tank Warfare Remembered" in your May 15 edition, and was astounded to note that the name of Major General Sir Percy Hobart was not even mentioned.

If Sir Basil Liddell Hart and General J. F. C. Fuller were able to add their comments I have no doubt that they would wish the name of General Hobart to be included with their own names in the development of the tank and tank tactics which were so boldly progressed by General Hobart in the middle 'thirties, and brought to fruition during the Second World War.

Yours faithfully,
S. I. HOWARD-JONES,
Craig House,
Linersh Wood Close,
Bramley,
Guildford, Surrey.
May 15.

"Shall we dance ?"

From Dr Georges C. Ware

Sir, If Betty Gearing (letter, May 17) reserves our table, arranges the taxi and pays the bill, I would be happy about her asking me to dance. Moreover, if she buys me enough drinks and signs up my dance card I might even let her take me home.

Yours, etc,
GEORGES C. WARE,
Senior Common Room,
University of Bristol.
May 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 19: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Mrs John Dugdale and Major Robin Broke were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel, Grenadier Guards, this evening attended the First Guards Club Dinner at the Dorchester Hotel.

Major Henry Hugh Smith was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 19: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and The Earl of Snowdon this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

May 19: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening were present at the Gala Premiere of the Wushu Delegation of China at the London Coliseum.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland and Mrs Michael Wigley were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
May 19: The Duke and Duchess of Kent this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, and Mrs Peter Wilmot-Sitwell were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 19: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Sir James Lighthill, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, Cambridge University, will deliver the Fison Memorial Lecture in the physiology theatre, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, SE1, at 5.00 pm today. The subject is aerodynamic aspects of animal flight.

A Requiem Mass for Commander William Segrave, RN, will be celebrated today in the Crypt of Westminster Cathedral at 6 pm.

Birthdays today

Mgr J. M. T. Barton, 77; Mr H. T. Cadbury-Brown, 62; Sir Harry Campion, 70; Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, 59; Flight Lieutenant J. A. Cruickshank, VC, 55; Lord Harlech, 57; Sir William Lawther, 86; Sir Ralph Metcalfe, 79; Lady Celia Milnes-Coates, 91; Sir Clinton Pelham, 77; Sir Gordon Russell, 83; Mr Peter Shore, MP, 51.

Palace of Holyroodhouse

The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Sir Hector MacLennan, and Mrs Gordon Webster took up residence at the Palace of Holyroodhouse yesterday. A dinner was held afterwards in the Palace of Holyroodhouse and later they gave a reception and attended a ceremony of presentation of the keys of the city. The guests at dinner included:
The Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Mrs Miller, the Secretary of State for Scotland and Mrs Ross, the Lord Advocate and Mrs King Murray, the Lord President of the Court of Session and Lady Emslie, and Mr and Mrs Ian W. Macdonald.

Theatre party

Miss Joan Lestor, MP
Miss Joan Lestor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at the Drury Lane Theatre and afterwards at the Savoy Hotel at a theatre party in honour of a delegation from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. The Governor of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, Mr D. C. Luddington, and Mr Solomon Mamaloni were also present.

Chelsea flower show overcomes May weather

By Our Horticultural Correspondent

Nobody attending the Chelsea flower show, which opens to the public tomorrow, would realize from the exhibits how difficult the May weather has been; they are as numerous and lovely as ever.

The great spring show of the Royal Horticultural Society, held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is open today for fellows of the society, and to the public tomorrow, Thursday and Friday.

The trend towards the production of fruit and vegetables in private gardens is reflected at the show. One of the outdoor gardens is designed to show samples of the vegetables that can be grown in even a small town garden. In the great marquee the society has planted a model fruit garden with fruit trees in full flower. Notcutts Nurseries, besides a charming group of flowering trees and shrubs, have laid out a herb garden with young fruit trees and beds of various culinary herbs.

The outdoor gardens are fairly uninspiring, although that from George G. Whitelegg, with a rock garden and waterfall, informal pool and shrub bordered lawn, is quite attractive. So, too, is the small garden with shrubs and ground cover plants created by Merrist Wood Agricultural College.

The bank, on which in bygone days half a dozen rock gardens used to be built, has only one this year: an imposing garden in Westmorland stone, pleasingly but sensibly planted. The rest of the bank is planted fairly solidly with rhododendrons, azaleas, acers, brooms and other shrubs.

Inside the marquee there is a tall granite monument, which many exhibitors in the past have usually tried to hide. John Mattock Ltd, who are celebrating their centenary this year, have instead almost made a feature of the monument, setting around it dozens of large bowls of roses in a shallow pool. Among their varieties are Franklin Engelmann, red, Isis, white, Rainbow, pink with a golden reverse, and Alec's Red.

R. Harkness & Co are showing, among other varieties, the yellow floribunda rose 'Gardeners' Sunday' for the first time. It is to be sold for the benefit of the Gardeners' Sunday organization, which arranges garden openings on behalf of charities.

Especially interesting are the named hybrids of *Rhododendron yakushimanum* from J. Waterer Sons & Crisp. These very free-flowering, shapely hybrids, in many colours, are especially suitable for small gardens as they grow only to about five feet.

Exhibitors preparing their displays at the Royal Hospital grounds yesterday.

Treasures of Tenbury have excelled even their previous exhibits of clematis: 'Barbara Dibley', carmine, 'Proteus', lavender, and 'Corona', carmine pink, are among their most striking varieties.

From the Royal Parks (Regent's Park) has come a fascinating exhibit consisting in the main of two large carpet beds planted with echeverias, alternantheras and other low-growing plants. One design depicts the royal coat of arms, and the other is to celebrate European Architectural Heritage Year.

As always, orchids are shown in large numbers, and there is a particularly beautiful group from the Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society.

One of the most beautifully staged exhibits is the group of florists' flowers from the Dutch Flower Growers' Association, and the azaleas, bougainvilleas and other pot plants from the Belgian growers are also noteworthy.

Once more house plants from T. Rochford and Sons are superbly staged.

Cacti are becoming increasingly popular, although many people do not realize how many of these and other succulent plants produce brilliant flowers. Holly Gate Nurseries have brought some superb epiphyllums and gymnocalyciums, and some small plants of the curious and ornamental *Rechsteineria leucotricha* with silvery foliage and red tubular flowers.

Of peonies, the red-and-gold King of England, Germaine Bigot, pink, and Kelway's Circe, carmine, are outstanding. Alpines are also well shown, with fine saxifrages, lewisias and other charming plants for the rock garden.

Bulbous flowers are well shown with a large group of daffodils, kept in cold store, tulips in great variety, and many crocuses and flowers of early spring.

The great increase in the cost of fuel does not seem to have deterred growers of greenhouse plants. Besides the groups of cacti, orchids and house plants, there are groups of pelargoniums, chrysanthemums, fuchsias and other plants that need the protection of heated glass.

There are, of course, the usual imposing groups of rhododendrons, azaleas and other flowering shrubs.

An innovation that reflects the interest in growing food is a large tent with exhibits of deep freezers.

The show is open for fellows from 8.30 am to 8 pm today. Anyone wishing to join the society may do so at the entrance gates. It will be open to the public from 8.30 am to 8 pm tomorrow and Thursday, and from 8.30 am to 5 pm on Friday.

Diary, page 14

Luncheons

Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Sir Christopher Soames was the guest of honour yesterday at the annual luncheon of the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Culloden Hotel, Craigavad.

British Council
Mr J. D. B. Fowells, Assistant Director-General of the British Council, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 10 Spring Gardens on the occasion of the British-Greek Mixed Commission.

Coal Industry Society
The 283rd luncheon of the Coal Industry Society was held at the Hyde Park Hotel yesterday. Brigadier K. Hargreaves presided and Dr P. W. Glover was in the chair. Mr Peter Hawksfield was the principal guest and speaker.

Receptions

HM Government
Mr Fred Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mrs Peart were hosts at a reception given by her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of the general assembly of the International Federation of Wine and Spirit Associations.

Mr and Mrs V. Hochhauser and the Great Britain-China Centre
The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present at a reception given by Mr and Mrs Victor Hochhauser and the Great Britain-China Centre at the London Coliseum last night, to mark the opening performance of the Wushu Delegation of China. Mr Malcolm MacDonald, president, Great Britain-China Centre, Lord Trevelyan, vice-president, and Sir Harold Thompson, chairman, attended. Among others present were:
The Ambassador for China and Mme Chang Ju, Mr Hsu Kuo-an, leader of the delegation, Sir Edward Heath, MP, Lord and Lady Elwyn-Jones, Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Mr Denis Howell, MP, members of the House of Lords, the House of Commons, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Chinese Embassy, the Chairman of the GLC and Mr C. Dorington, members of local government and representatives of the arts, industry and the press.

English-Speaking Union
The American Ambassador was guest of honour at a reception and dinner given last night by the English-Speaking Union at Dartmouth House. Sir Patrick Dean, chairman, presided.

Lady Mayoress of Westminster
After his election as Lord Mayor of Westminster last night, Councillor Roger M. Dawe, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Dawe, gave a reception at Westminster Council House for members and chief officers of the city council and other guests.

Dinners

Tate Gallery
Sir Alan Bullock, chairman of the Tate Gallery Trustees, and Sir Norman Reid, director, were hosts with Lady Bullock and Lady Reid at a dinner at the Tate Gallery yesterday evening in honour of Mr Henry Moore, before the opening on May 21 of the exhibition, Henry Moore: Graphic work in the making.

Royal College of Radiologists
A dinner in honour of the 1975 Crookshank Lecturer, Dr A. W. Merrison, of Bristol, was held by the Royal College of Radiologists on Friday. Professor J. H. Middlemiss, president, was in the chair.

Weavers' Company
The Weavers' Company held their annual ladies' dinner at Vintners' Hall last night. The Upper Bailiff, Mr L. C. Winterton and Miss P. M. C. Winterton received the guests and Judge Jean Graham Hall also spoke. Among those present were the Renter Bailiff, the Upper Warden, the Renter Warden and their ladies.

Coal Industry Society
The annual committee dinner of the Coal Industry Society was held at the Junior Carlton Club last night. Mr J. A. Boddy was in the chair, and the speakers were Mr Wilfred Miron and Mr Philip Clarke.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon P. H. Dixon and Miss J. B. Cutler
The engagement is announced between Peter Herbert, younger son of Lord and Lady Glentoran, Drumadarragh House, Ballyclare, co Antrim, and Jane Blanch, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric S. Cutler, Grayshott Hall Farm, Grayshott, Hampshire.

Mr A. R. Allen and Miss J. M. S. Kimber
The engagement is announced between Anthony Roger, son of the late Mr A. G. Allen and of Mrs Elizabeth Allen, of 249 Staines Road West, Sunbury-on-Thames, and Jane Margaret Shaw, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D. B. Kimber, of Broughton, Monks Road, Virginia Water, and Whitburn, Sunderland.

Captain S. J. C. Carr RA and Miss M. Sarkisian
The engagement is announced between Captain Simon John Stobart Carr, RA, elder son of Mr and Mrs Roy L. Carr, of Swan House, Preston, Canterbury, Kent, and Marie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rupen Sarkisian, of Beirut, Lebanon.

Mr C. P. Clarke and Miss A. E. J. Gilbert
The engagement is announced of Charles, son of the late Commander R. Peard Clarke, RN, and Mrs Clarke, of Punta de la Mona, Grenada, Spain, and Elizabeth, daughter of Commander Walter Raleigh Gilbert, RN, and Mrs Gilbert, of Compton Castle, south Devon.

Mr D. C. Raikes and Miss D. J. Gibson
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. M. Raikes, of The Old Rectory, Welton-le-Wold, Louth, Lincolnshire, and Diana, only daughter of Professor and Mrs J. T. R. Gibson, of Vaal Road, Milnerton, Cape, South Africa.

Mr J. G. Williams and Miss I. G. Owen
The engagement was announced on Whit Sunday, between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. A. Williams, Eirianfa, Llanberis, Gwynedd, and Inez, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Owen, Hillburn, Bontnewydd, Caernarvon, Gwynedd.

Marriage

Mr M. R. J. Symons and Miss C. E. Hearn
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 17, of Mr Marcus Symons, son of Mr and Mrs Julian Symons, of 37 Cambridge Mansions, Cambridge Road, London, SW11, and Miss Christine Hearn, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. W. Hearn, of 55 Eltham Hill, London, SE9.

Memorial service

Dr C. L. Cope
A memorial service for Dr Cuthbert Cope was held yesterday at St Peter's, Vere Street. The Rev Michael Baughen officiated. Professor C. C. Booth (district management team, Hammersmith Hospital) read the lesson and Professor Sir John McMichael gave an address.

Among those present were:
Mrs Cope (widow), Mr and Mrs David Cope (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Arthur Cope (brother and sister-in-law), Miss Elizabeth Cope, Mr and Mrs Michael Grace, Dr Elsa Clyne, Lord Amulree, Professor Lord Stamp, Professor Sir Cyril Clarke (president, Royal College of Physicians), and Dr C. E. Newman (librarian), Sir Graham Wilson, Lady McMichael, Professor and Mrs J. V. Dacie, Professor J. C. M. Browne, Professor and Mrs C. M. Fletcher, Professor and Mrs J. F. Goodwin, Professor and Mrs J. Macintyre, Professor and Mrs R. Shackman, Professor and Mrs J. P. Shillingford, Professor and Mrs R. E. Steiner, Professor and Mrs R. B. Welbourn, Professor and Mrs M. D. Milne, Professor L. J. Witts, Professor J. G. Scadding, Professor Sheila Sherlock, Professor I. Doniach, Dr Malcolm Godfrey (dean, Royal Postgraduate Medical School), Dr D. Child (junior medical staff, Hammersmith Hospital) and Miss M. Fraser-Gamble (district nursing officer), Dr R. E. Morrison, Dr L. W. Loughridge, Dr G. Neuzil, Dr T. J. Peters, Dr J. P. D. Mounsey, Dr and Mrs M. A. Grace, Dr M. Kjeld (Endocrine Unit, Royal Postgraduate Medical School), Dr D. G. Anderson, Dr G. Burke, Mrs C. C. Booth and Mrs Selwyn Taylor.

Today's engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Greenwich, 10.55.
The Duke of Edinburgh, an honorary fellow, gives inaugural lecture of the Institute of Building's annual series, Senate House, London University, 6.15.
Princess Anne, president, Save the Children Fund, and patron, Riding for the Disabled Association, gives reception, Buckingham Palace, 6.
Princess Margaret attends charity cabaret gala in aid of Migraine Trust, of which she is patron, Baileys Club, Watford, 8.15.
Memorial service: Sir Arthur Bliss, Westminster Abbey, 12.

Sotheby's to auction rare sixteenth-century ewer

The St Porchaire ewer to be sold on June 17.

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

One of the greatest rarities in the field of European ceramics, a St Porchaire ewer, is to be offered for sale by Sotheby's on June 17. St Porchaire wares were made between about 1525 and 1565 and only 60 pieces have survived, most of which are now in public collections. The ewer was in Horace Walpole's collection at Strawberry Hill; it is mentioned in the *Description* of the house published in 1774, and in the illustrated 1784 edition of the *Description* it is shown in a line engraving in the centre of the mantelpiece of his china room.

At the 1842 Strawberry Hill sale it was purchased for 19 guineas by Sir Anthony de Rothschild and remained in his family collection until 1948, when it was acquired by the late Colonel N. R. Colville. Sotheby's are now selling it on behalf of his executors.

St Porchaire ware, also known as *faience de Henri II* (it was made in his reign) was rediscovered by the public, like Palissy ware, as a result of the 1862 "Special Exhibition of Works of Art" at the South Kensington Museum, and was subsequently extensively faked. It represents the finest flowering of Mannerism in the field of ceramics. Elaborate patterns are inlaid into the soft clay body in clays of contrasting colour.

This ewer, with grotesque masks and a woman's body leaning over the lip, is one of the most elaborate examples that have survived. Its companion, surmounted by the torso of a man, is in the Cleveland Museum. It stands just over a foot high. Sotheby's estimate £20,000 to £30,000, but the price is really anybody's guess; the only item of comparable rarity bought at auction in recent years is the Medici porcelain bowl sold at Parke Bernet for $180,000 (about £78,300) in 1973.

University news

London
Appointments:
R. B. Cawley, BSc, PhD, MB, ChB: consultant psychiatrist to the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, to the chair of psychological medicine at King's College Hospital Medical School and Institute of Psychiatry.
J. Curson, MDS: senior lecturer at the Royal Dental Hospital of London School of Dental Surgery, to the chair of conservative dentistry, at King's College Hospital Medical School.

Sheffield
Appointments to chairs:
Dr D. J. Mosley, BA (Durham), MA, PhD (Cantab), reader in ancient history, to be professor of ancient history. Dr E. J. C. Garden, DMus (Edinburgh), senior lecturer in music at Glasgow University, to the James Rossiter Hoyle Chair of Music.

Grants:
£10,788 from the Agricultural Research Council over three years for the department of biochemistry for research on glutamine synthetase and glutamate synthetase; £12,208 from the Medical Research Council over three years for the department of biochemistry for research into formation of the lipid components of myelin in the central nervous system and their incorporation and turnover in the myelin membrane; £12,805 from the Science Research Council over three years for the department of biochemistry for structural studies on learning; £11,451 from the Department of Health and Social Security over 30 months for the department of sociological studies for research into organizational influences on social workers' and clients' perceptions of social work practice; £180,720 from the British Library over five years for the postgraduate school of librarianship and information science.

Keele
Sir Humphrey Browne is to resign as pro-chancellor from September 30 because of business interests.

Strathclyde
Dr J. W. Atwell, a former director of the Weir Group Ltd, is to be chairman of the university court in succession to Sir Patrick Thomas, chairman of the Scottish Transport Group, who retains his membership.

Other appointments:
Senior Lecturers: Dr N. Berner, BSc, MSc, PhD (bioengineering unit); Dr D. J. R. Scott, MA, BSc (Econ), PhD (marketing).
Lecturers: M. D. Hughes, BTech (administration); N. L. Reed, BSc (Econ) (administration); Dr M. C. Reed, BA, MA, DPhil (urban and regional planning); Jennifer T. Gena, MA, MEd (administration).
Research fellows: A. M. Rahman, BSc, MSc (civil engineering); J. C. Boyd, BSc (electronic science and telecommunications); R. Alsh (architecture and building science); D. Strachan, BA (overseas development studies).

OBITUARY

MR LEROY ANDERSON

A fertile popular musician

Leroy Anderson, the American light music composer, has died at the age of 66.

Anderson was famous for his popular concert style, and many of his compositions are firmly established in the light orchestra repertoire. His composition "Blue Tango" earned him celebrity in 1952 when it became the first strictly instrumental number to reach the top of the Hit Parade. It eventually sold over two million copies to become a major commercial success.

Anderson was born of Swedish ancestry in Cambridge, Massachusetts in June, 1908. At the age of 11 he studied music at the New England Conservatory and in the following year wrote his first composition, a minuet for string quartet.

He studied music at Harvard and on graduation in 1929 became choirmaster and organist of the East Congregational Church in Milton, Massachusetts.

He remained there for six years and, though he conducted and arranged music for the Harvard University Band during this period, worked at a doctoral thesis on foreign languages with a view to becoming a teacher of languages. This knowledge of languages was to be put to use later in his life as a liaison officer and translator in the Second World War.

But in 1935 Anderson gave up his thesis and appeared in Boston and New York as a freelance conductor, composer and arranger. He made a strong impression on the conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, Arthur Fiedler, and was engaged as its permanent orchestrator.

His gift for garbing popular music with varied colours and an ability to combine popular and symphonic elements without creating any clash in style greatly enhanced his reputation. His first composition for the Pops Orchestra, "Jazz Pizzicato", was in 1937.

During the Second World War, Anderson was called up by the army and served first as a press and liaison officer in Iceland, before transferring to Military Intelligence in Washington.

Returning to the Boston Pops Orchestra after the war, he composed several more pieces of which "Fiddle-Faddle" and "The Syncopated Clock" virtually launched him on his successful career. From that point Decca engaged him to record his work and he became one of America's best known semi-classical composers.

To a grasp of technique he brought a sense of humour and a flair for burlesque, and was particularly successful in injecting borrowed sounds from the extra-musical world—the ticking of clocks, the clicking of typewriters and the ringing of sleigh bells—into his music.

A spate of compositions followed his first recording contract, many of which are now titles firmly entrenched in the repertoire. Among these well known pieces are "Fiddle Faddle", "Belle of the Ball", "Plink, Plank, Plunk", "Sleigh Ride", "A Trumpeter's Lullaby" and "Blue Tango".

"The Typewriter" was effectively used in 1959 in the film *But not For Me*, starring Clark Gable.

Recalled to army service during the Korean War, Anderson again served with Intelligence. Back in civilian life he composed his first Broadway Musical score *Goldilocks* in 1958. Thereafter he conducted a number of major American light orchestras and made numerous recordings.

PROFESSOR N. A. BARNICOT

Professor Nigel Ashworth Barnicot died on May 14 in London after a long illness.

He was born in 1914 and from Marlborough College he went to University College London where he studied Zoology and Physiology, taking a first class Honours degree in 1936 and receiving a PhD in 1950. He had been a member of the staff of University College since 1938, first in the Department of Zoology, later joining the new Department of Anthropology, and in 1960 was appointed Professor of Physical Anthropology. During the war, after spending two years teaching preclinical students, he was engaged from 1943-45 in Operational Research under Coastal Command.

He covered a very wide field of research interests, which are best described under the title of human biology and he argued strongly for its recognition as a discipline more clearly separated than at present from general anthropology. His research began with investigations of bone structure and of the effects of hormones and vitamins on bone growth. His main work was devoted to a study of physical variations, for example in the structure and pigmentation of hair and skin, and of blood groups and other genetic markers, in humans as well as other primates.

In all his work he combined great skill in the design and execution of experiments with a breadth of interest which enabled him to select and acquire wide-ranging new techniques which had to be applied to his scientific problems, from statistics to protein sequencing and electron microscopy. His interest in statistical methods became particularly useful to him during his important field study among the Hadza in East Africa. Again, his artistic flair in painting and sculpturing helped him not only in designing experiments but also in constructing structural models to clarify his ideas as his work progressed. Among his many publications, his co-authorship of the standard treatise on Human Biology is especially worth mentioning.

He was a founder member of the Society for the Study of Human Biology. His advice was sought by many societies and committees. In 1967 he was awarded the Pitt-Rivers Memorial Medal for outstanding fieldwork in Africa and Europe, and in 1968 he was elected a Fellow of University College London.

He was a person of great kindliness and wisdom, and though of somewhat retiring nature, he made many friends who sought and enjoyed his counsel. He showed immense sympathy and understanding for students and colleagues who came to him for advice and help, and who could sense that he had real concern for them and a genuine interest in the life and work of his fellows. His humour and sense of irony were much appreciated by his friends. On occasions one could see him bristle with indignation at the slightest trace of arrogance or pomposity. Nigel Barnicot was a man of complete integrity; consideration for friends and colleagues was to him a matter of overriding importance, indeed much more important than getting on in life.

He leaves a widow.

The Earl of Rothes has died at the age of 73. He was the 20th Earl. Born in 1902 he was educated at Eton and became a member of the Royal Company of Archers (Queen's Body Guard for Scotland).

During the Second World War he was Director of Tyres at the Ministry of Supply from 1942 to 1945. He was Representative Peer for Scotland from 1931 to 1959.

Col John Howlett Tewson, MC, whose death is announced, was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk in 1955.

Lady Spears, widow of Sir Edward Spears, Bt, KBE, MC, died on May 17. She was Nancy, daughter of Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice and she married Sir Edward Spears as his second wife in 1969. He died in 1974.

Mr Henry Wooldridge, CBE, formerly head of Productivity Services and Information Division, Ministry of Technology, died on May 15. He was 67.

Commissioner William Wycliffe Booth of the Salvation Army, has died. He was 79.

SIR NEIL CANTLIE

Lt-General Sir Neil Cantlie, KCB, KBE, MC, a former Director-General of the Army Medical Services, died on May 16 at the age of 82.

He spent his entire professional life in the RAMC and his final promotion to its leadership was particularly fitting, as his father, Sir James Cantlie, a biography of whom he wrote in 1939, had been largely responsible for the steps taken towards the end of last century which finally established the RAMC Territorial Force and thus ensured that the Corps had ample skilled personnel in reserve.

Neil Cantlie was born on December 11, 1892. He was educated in Aberdeen at Robert Gordon's College and the University where he graduated with honours in 1914. He joined the RAMC right away and spent the First World War in France and Flanders. In 1920 he took the FRCS and was then seconded for service with the Egyptian Army and subsequently served in the Sudan.

Much of the Second World War he spent in North Africa and Italy as ADMS 46th Division and DDMS 5th Corps. In 1944 he was promoted Major-General and after the war served as DDMS Southern Command from 1946 until his appointment as director general of Army Medical Services in 1948.

On his retirement from this post he was appointed Honorary Governor and Medical Superintendent of King Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers at Osborne, Isle of Wight, an appointment he held until 1... He was appointed KBE in ... and KCB in 1952.

Much of his retirement was devoted to *An History of the Army Medical Department*, a two volume history of the RAMC which was published towards the end of last year.

The Corps he left behind was a very different organization from that which he joined in 1914—and the change was all for the better, being a steady process of adjustment to ensure that the troops and their wives and children received efficient medical attention in peace and in war as did their counterparts in civilian life.

In this process of keeping with the medical times Sir Neil played a quiet but steady influential part.

Latest wills

Mr Robert Rawstorne, of Fulwood, Lancashire, left £144,763 net. He left £1,000 each to Dr Barnardo's, the Fabric Fund of York Minster and Spastics Society, £4,000 to Holy Trinity, Freckleton, and, after other bequests, the residue to Freckleton Parish Council for village recreational and religious purposes.

Mrs Doris Cole, of Oxford, left £85,575 net. After personal legacies of £2,600, she left the residue equally among the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Children, Dr Barnardo's, St Dunstan's, and Elesma.

Other estates include (net before duty paid, duty on some estates not disclosed):
Brocklebank, Sir John Montague, fifth baronet, of Malta, chairman of Cunard, 1959-1965, estate in England and Wales. £33,605

Furniture Makers' Company

At a court meeting held at the Mansion House last night the following were installed as the officers of the Company of Furniture Makers' for the ensuing year: Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, Master, Mr J. H. Nickson, Senior Warden, and Mr L. W. L. Alston, Junior Warden. The annual installation dinner was held afterwards at the Mansion House.

The Queen's Gallery

The George III exhibition will be open on Bank holiday, May 26, from 11 am to 5 pm. Thereafter it will be open as usual, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm; Sunday 2-5 pm; closed Monday.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, May 19, 1950

Mr Oliver Lyttelton presided at the luncheon which was held at the Café Royal yesterday to celebrate the centenary of John Wisden and Company, Limited, and the guest of honour was Mr Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Wilson said that the last time he played cricket was in Moscow, when he was there for trade talks with the Russians. One Sunday afternoon, during a lull in the negotiations the delegation repaired to some woods not far from Moscow. A few weeks afterwards, after the breakdown of the discussions, the Moscow press published an account of "orgies and strange pirouettes on the lakeside of the English delegation".

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

›pending to beat ›udget helped ›oost retail sales › pc in April

›. Congdon
› sales soared last month › 7½ per cent from their › level, according to › released yesterday by › partment of Industry. › as mainly because of › uying as a result of the

› increase in value-added › certain consumer › s from 8 to 25 per cent › huge spending spree in › ond half of the month › the higher rate became › s only on May 1 and › nsumers time to buy at › get levels.
› Department of Industry › it too much should not › into the figures for this › It adds that the esti- › " subject to greater un- › y than usual, because of › riations in the experi- › contributors in the dif- › arts of the retail trade ". › udget buying of alco- › inks may have contri- › o the April jump. An › in excise duties was › expected and anticipa- › ying may have been sig- › , but if so, it must have › mpressed into the two › before the Budget, be- › he March retail sales › did not appear to be ›.

› harp slowdown in earn- › owth revealed in the › rage rate and earnings › from the Department of › nent has clearly not › consumer enthusiasm › nto living standards yet. › e heavy expenditure by › sonal sector in April › uggest that individuals › gun to run down their › posits or increase their › his behaviour would be › rast to the pattern › out 1974, when the per- › ector built up financial assets on an exceptionally large scale.

Some forecasters have argued that individuals would be afraid to reduce their holdings of financial assets in present circumstances because of the increased danger of unemployment.

If the personal sector continues to maintain a financial surplus, retail sales will fall heavily. Depressed figures in May and June are to be expected to compensate for the erratically high April return.

RETAIL SALES AND HP

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of instalment credit released by the Department of Industry:

		Sales by volume 1971 = 100	New credit extended £
1972		105.8	2,497
1973		110.7	2,871
1974		109.9	2,517
1973	Q1	111.8	761
	Q2	108.3	681
	Q3	110.6	717
	Q4	112.0	712
1974	Q1	109.8	676
	Q2	107.3	614
	Q3	111.0	648
	Q4	111.6	679
1975	Q1	111.5	723
May		105.8	207
June		108.2	205
July		109.2	216
Aug		111.4	215
Sept		112.2	217
Oct		111.4	231
Nov		112.8	224
Dec		110.8	224
1975			
Jan		113.0	246
Feb		112.3	243
March		109.4	234
April*		117.5	—

* provisional

›C wary of Swiss ›ve to join 'snake'

›David Cross
›, May 19
›an-Pierre Fourcade, the › minister of finance, will › EEC colleagues tomor- › his government intends › grate the French franc › Community's system of › floating currencies.
› ne of their regular › meetings in Brussels, › ance ministers are also › iscuss the Swiss govern- › equest to join the so- › snake".
› ew French move, an- › by President Giscard › earlier this month, has › comed in Brussels as a › renewed French faith in European monetary integration.

But largely because of the French decision, the ministers are unlikely to want to see the Swiss franc join the concerted float at this stage. This is because the strength of the Swiss franc would tend to pull the other currencies operating the snake upwards, thereby making it more difficult for the French to rejoin the system.

According to well-informed sources here, the original enthusiasm of countries like West Germany to let the Swiss franc in has cooled somewhat and only the European Commission is still keen on the idea.

Drastic falls in Kuwait and Saudi oil output

By Roger Vielvoye

Kuwait's oil production dropped by 24.2 per cent last month compared with output in April, 1974, providing yet another indication of the depressed state of the world oil market. Output totalled 64.4 million barrels against 84.9 million in April last year, the *Petroleum Ministry* announced yesterday.

Even this substantial drop is small compared with the cutback in Saudi Arabia. According to informed sources, Saudi output in April was 5.66 million barrels a day—about half the country's total productive capacity and well below the record 8.8 million barrels a day achieved last October.

Saudi Arabia's decision to allow such a huge fall-off in production and revenues has saved the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries from being forced to make controlled output cuts throughout its membership in an effort to equate supply and demand and keep prices from falling.

The Saudi *Government is due* to resume talks with the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) today on the proposed 100 per cent state takeover of the consortium's operations. Talks are expected to last for several days and both sides are hoping that all outstanding questions can be finally settled.

So far there has been no agreement on the amount of compensation the four oil company partners in Aramco should receive, or the amounts of crude they will be guaranteed after the takeover.

A new French initiative on *resuming talks between the oil* producers, industrial consumers and the Third World may emerge from discussions between the Shah of Iran and M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the French President.

After giving a warning to the *Americans that he wants oil* prices increased when the Opec freeze ends in September, the Shah has now arrived in Paris.

The United States has taken the Shah's words seriously. Mr John Hill, deputy director of the Federal Energy Administration, *said yesterday he believed* oil prices would "probably" rise after the freeze ended.

Estimates of the amount ranged from 10 to 15 per cent, although the Shah had hinted that increases should be as much as 35 per cent.

Meanwhile, Syria is hoping to join Opec. Mr Adnan Mustafa, Oil Minister, said yesterday that *by the end of the year he hoped* exports would be running at 10 million tons annually.

Wheway Watson

The profits and turnover of Wheway Watson Holdings, the *Glasgow-based chainmakers*, engineers and forgers for the year to March 31 last were the best ever. Second half production and sales showed a marked improvement on the first and unaudited figures indicate that the full-year's pre-tax profits will be £850,000—a 65 per cent increase on 1973-74.

Chrysler now faces wage demand for 30 pc

By R. W. Shakespeare

With all Chrysler car production in Britain now halted by the strike over pay demands by 4,000 workers at the central engines plant in *Coventry*, union conveners from the American-owned company's production centres in the Midlands, Scotland and Dunstable met yesterday to discuss proposals on "power sharing" through worker participation.

The conveners' main decision was to set up a small working party to examine the management's proposals.

Chrysler is now facing bigger demands from workers at its Ryton, Coventry, and Scottish car plants than the £8 a week immediate "interim" increase over which the Stoke strikers are in dispute.

In a claim tabled yesterday the 4,000 Ryton workers are calling for a 30 per cent increase in their present average basic rate of £54.57, plus threshold payments of £1.20 a week, longer holidays and improved holiday pay, a reduction in the *working week, improved shift* premiums and higher sick pay.

The Chrysler management calculates that, if conceded in full, the claim would add 60 *per cent to the plant's wages* costs—clearly well outside the terms of the social contract.

A similar demand together with some closing of existing differentials has been tabled by workers at the Linwood Renfrewshire plant.

*The Stoke men sought in*creases in basic rates stepped up by £15 a week in a new pay deal, due at the end of next month.

The conveners made it clear that if Chrysler wanted to put any fresh proposals on the pay *issue they would be ready to* discuss them, but no new approach has come from the employers.

It is likely that there will be some contact between the two sides during the next 24 hours. The strike leaders are expected *to hold another session tomor*row before a further mass meeting of the strikers on Thursday. The stewards have made it clear they now expect any initiative to come from the company.

Chrysler has said it is prepared to table new pay pro*posals on Friday, but so far the* management has insisted on a full return to work before this *is done*.

The strike has stopped all car assembly operations in Coventry and at Linwood, making more than 7,000 other workers idle. *Chrysler is losing* output of more than £1m worth of vehicles a day. By the end of this week production of vans at Dunstable plant will also be stopped.

Elsewhere in the industry the situation was mixed. At Ford's Dagenham plant production was halted with 5,000 laid off because of a strike by 100 men already in its fourth week. Production losses are *running at more than £15m*.

At Massey Ferguson, tractor production at the Banner Lane, *Coventry, factory is still held* up because of a continuing strike over pay by 4,000 workers.

However, British Leyland was able to recall most of the 16,500 workers who have been laid off over the past three weeks because of a strike by 700 clerical workers which closed five Dunlop component factories in Coventry. The clerical workers went back yesterday after accepting settlement terms, and 2,000 other Dunlop workers were recalled.

British Leyland had eight *different car model lines* stopped by the strike in the Midlands, on Merseyside, and at Cowley, Oxford. *It hopes to* have all workers back by today and production in all centres resumed by tomorrow.

Institutional buyers spark surge by equities

By Our Financial Staff

Aeappearance of the unit trusts and other major institutional buyers of shares sent the equity market ahead in London yesterday. The City was hopeful that *the Government and the* trade unions might now act together to curb United Kingdom wage inflation.

The *FT* index rose by 12 *points to 353.T, only a few* points under the year's high, while *The Times* index, at 144.38, showed a net rise of 6.73. But the market remains short of stock, and turnover was not over heavy yesterday. The total of recorded bargains, at 6,981, was low for the first day of a new trading account.

Shares in the overseas earnig companies led the market forward. ICI (270p), Beecham (292p) and Reed International (286p)all with trading state*ments due this week—closed* with good rises.

Gilts too were better, helped by the disclosure that the rate of increase in United Kingdom wages is slowing down, and by further cuts in prime rates by American banks.

Tim Congdon writes: "Monetary growth is now excessive", according to the latest *Monetary Bulletin* from W. Greenwells & Co. the stockbrokers. The bulletin questions the reliability of the present M3 (the broadly based money supply) figures as *indications of monetary condi*tions and argues that there has been a substantial build-up of liquidity in recent months.

Although M3 has been growing at an annual rate of under 10 per cent in the past three months other types of deposit, which *have characteristics simi*lar to those of money, have been growing much more quickly, the bulletin says. In particular, the net deposits of building societies have grown substantially in the past six months, at an annual rate of 22 per cent.

Meanwhile, M1 (the narrowly defined money supply) has started to rise far too quickly, the stockbrokers say. The right policy, they contend, is a *gradual reduction in the rate* of growth of the money supply in nominal terms. But the latest *figures, which show an annual* growth rate of 28 per cent, "lead us to conclude that M1's current behaviour is contrary to the gradualist recommendation".

Concern is expressed that renewed demand for bank loans *from industry will be difficult* to control when the economy begins to recover and confidence returns. Rapid growth of bank lending would add to the money supply and cause inflationary pressures in 1976 and 1977.

The *former control mechan*ism, which operated by inhibiting the growth of banks' interest bearing liabilities, is criticized. A preference is shown for an alternative mechanism which would define the ratio of each banks' eligible liabilities that *might be lent to the private* sector.

Board backs lower bid for SMC

By Our Financial Staff

Britain's largest maker of *domestic central heating pumps*, Sealed Motor Construction, is the subject of a takeover battle. Within an hour of Myson, a heating and ventilating equipment group, bidding nearly £2.6m for SMC yesterday, a counter offer worth £2.2m came from another engineering company, Adwest.

To the annoyance of the Myson camp, *SMC's board said* it would recommend the Adwest terms—40p of 10¼ per cent convertible loan stock for each SMC share—and irrevocably committed directors' beneficial holdings to Adwest representing 9.9 per cent of the SMC equity.

Myson's offer *is* in equity—three Myson shares, now standing at 78p, for every five in SMC, valuing SMC shares at 46.7p against last night's market price of 45p, up 10p on the bids.

For about two years Myson, which feels that *SMC's pump* business would integrate well with its heating and ventilating equipment interests and benefit from Myson's aggressive marketing policies, has been stalking SMC and recently took its stake in the Bridgwater, *Somerset, company up to* 12.6 per cent.

SMC's low market value reflects difficulties it has suffered due to the state of the building industry on which it is heavily dependent. Interim profits to last August were sharply down; there were losses in Italy and SMC's interim dividend was passed.

Nevertheless, *SMC* has around two-thirds of the British market for domestic central heating pumps.

Adwest, which makes a wide range of products for the automotive, electrical and general engineering sectors, would con*tinue to operate SMC as a* separate company.

It has longstanding links with SMC; Mr T. P. Walmsley, Adwest's deputy chairman, is also on the SMC board.

Financial Editor, page 19

Chase Manhattan cuts prime rate to 7¼ pc

From Frank Vogl
Washington, May 19

Chase Manhattan Bank of New York today became the latest of the major United States banks to cut its prime lending rate to 7¼ per cent from 7½ per cent.

The move coincided with the cut to 6 per cent from 6¼ per cent in the discount rate by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, after similar cuts by 10 other Federal Reserve banks late last Thursday.

The cuts in interest rates are, according to bankers and money market dealers, a direct response to clear efforts by the Fed to ensure that short-term rates do not rise under pressure from the drain *on funds* produced by high Treasury borrowing.

A modest *rise in short-term* rates had been widely expected, but the Fed appears to have countered the move effectively, so far, by a series of specific actions.

Dealers maintain that the Fed first lowered its target levels for federal funds (reserves which banks lend each other) by about *one-quarter per* cent from 4¾ per cent to 5¼ per cent.

Then the Fed expanded the supply of reserves to the market, through a series of open market operations, and finally capped these efforts with its discount rate cut.

The latest Fed actions have led bankers and market to make a modest revision of their views on the outlook for interest rates and Fed policies.

The view had been widespread that the Fed would not act to alleviate the drain on *cash produced by the now heavy* level of Treasury borrowing, so allowing modest rises in rates.

Now, however, the experts feel the Fed is coming to the conclusion that the upswing in general economic activity in the second half of the year may not be as forceful as had earlier been predicted.

Bankers and dealers suggest that there might well be some further small reductions.

The *general view is that the* prime rate will not go below 7 per cent during the summer, although some dealers are optimistic that the rate might even fall to 6¾ per cent.

Dutch bank bids £2.5m for NCT

Northern Commercial Trust, the private banking concern which made a £1.81m loss last year and has been receiving substantial support under the secondary bank rescue scheme, is to be acquired for £2.5m in cash by Algemene Bank Nederland, a leading Dutch bank.

The offer depends upon the completion of an agreement under which Knowsley & Co, the banking subsidiary of Authority Investments, and the holder of a 26.8 per cent stake in NCT, will take over the London operations of NCT.

Authority Investments and the directors together control 74.1 per cent of NCT's ordinary shares and are recommending acceptance of the offer.

Anglo-US talks on Pan Am fees

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Talks are due to begin in Washington tomorrow between the American State Department and Britain's Department of Trade in an effort to settle the dispute over what rate of com*mission should be paid* by airlines to travel agents.

Pan American want to pay 10 per cent, but the British Government has said the rate must be *no more* than 7.5 per cent. Britain has told Pan Am that unless it accepts the 7.5 per cent *maximum by Friday* permission to operate into Britain could be altered or even revoked.

Herbert aid decision next month

By Edward Townsend

Department of Industry proposals for the rescue of the troubled Alfred Herbert machine tool group are to go before the Industrial Development Advisory Board (IDAB) this week. A government decision on state aid is expected by mid-June.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, has told management and unions *he hopes the issue will be dis*cussed by the Cabinet shortly after the EEC referendum

Mr Benn is already at variance with the IDAB over Herbert. In January he disagreed with the board that the best way for the company to *be placed on a sound and* continuing basis was to allow it to go into receivership.

Since then the union-supported working party at Herbert has been compiling a joint corporate plan proposing a restructuring of the company, including 900 redundancies. This scheme was put to Mr Benn at the beginning of this *month*.

One issue is the future of Herbert's Red Lane plant in Coventry. The factory, employing about 500, makes heavy grinding machines for the steel industry, and the Herbert management has proposed that on economic grounds it should not remain within the reorganized group.

But a report yesterday that Mr Benn had strongly opposed the closure of Red Lane during recent talks with management and unions was denied by the Department of Industry, and Mr Neale Raine, Herbert's chief executive.

He said yesterday that Mr Benn had decided that the Red Lane issue should be studied *further*.

Carrimore halve loss

Over the six months to July 31 last year Anthony Carrimore, Durham-based manufacturer of car transporters and trailers, managed *to halve its pre-tax* loss from £80,000 to £40,000.

Crucial anti-trust case opened against IBM

From Peter Strafford
New York, May 19

Six years after it was filed, the Federal government's anti-trust case against International Business Machines finally came to court in New York today. The case was opened by Mr Raymond Carlson, an attorney from the Justice Department, who outlined the government's objections.

The main point, he said, was that IBM had sought to monopolize the general purpose systems market in computers as well as related hardware and software markets. Its policies had caused barriers to the growth of the industry, so that even large corporations like General Electric and RCA had to withdraw.

RCA, Mr Carlson said, had made great advances in computer technology, but it had *come up against the enormous* resources of IBM and had been forced to withdraw after making large operating losses.

The IBM suit is the biggest anti-trust case to have been heard in the United States. It has enormous importance for the future of the computer industry and for the status in years to come of any large corporation that comes to dominate a sector of industry.

Just as Standard Oil was broken up earlier in the century, the government wants to break up IBM in some way. It has not said exactly how this should be done, but has spoken of "several discreet, separate, *independent* and competitively balanced entities . . . capable of competing successfully in *domestic* and *international* markets".

IBM denies any illegal monopoly practices, and claims that it has "earned its success through competition on the merits—new product innovation, superior service and prices competition". It is only *one of 4,900 companies in the* computer industry, it maintains.

The government has to prove not only that a monopoly exists but that IBM acted deliberately. Much of the case will turn on how a particular market is to be defined, and the various procedures that IBM is alleged to have used to monopolize it.

Chief Judge David Edelstein of the Federal District Court is hearing the case without a jury. Judge Edelstein expects the court hearings to take a year, and thinks he will need another year to come to a decision.

WAGES

The following are the index *numbers* for basic rates of wages for all manual workers in all industries and services and for *average earnings of all employees* in all industries and services in Great Britain covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	Hourly rates* (July 31 1972 = 100)	Average earnings (Jan 1970 = 100)	% change over 3 months at annual rate
1973			
Oct	120.3	158.2	12.6
Nov	121.0	160.3	12.5
Dec	122.0	161.4	12.9
1974			
Jan	123.7	154.1	−8.9†
Feb	124.7	156.8	−8.5†
March	126.4	164.3	6.8†
April	127.6	164.7	30.2†
May	131.9	169.6	35.9†
June	136.8	176.2	32.3†
July	139.7	181.8	48.5
Aug	145.5	185.5	43.1
Sept	146.3	189.2	32.3
Oct	148.7	191.8	22.9
Nov	153.9	200.8	37.2
Dec	157.9	208.3	46.9
1975			
Jan	159.7	206.2	33.6
Feb	161.7	209.9	19.4
March	168.3	212.8 p	8.9
April	168.6	NA	NA

p provisional
* Not seasonally adjusted
† These figures reflect the abnormal reduction in earnings because of the three-day week.
NA not available

How the markets moved

The Times index : 144.48 + 6.73
FT index : 353.8 + 12.0

Rises

Allied Brew	5p to 69p	Lloyds Bk	8p to 230p
Barclays Bk	8p to 283p	Long John Int	18p to 128p
Beecham	10p to 292p	Reed Int	16p to 286p
Brit Am Tob	15p to 325p	Shell	11p to 331p
Distillers	7p to 143p	Sun Alliance	15p to 470p
GKN	14p to 256p	Samuel, H.	15p to 172p
Imp Chem Ind	10p to 272p	Ultramar	16p to 196p

Falls

Bk of NSW	5p to 620p	Hoover	5p to 230p
Cater Ryder	13p to 210p	Jersey Ext	5p to 105p
Chown Secs	2p to 27p	Ldn Tin	5p to 185p
Dunlop Hldgs	1p to 53p	Metro Town	4p to 15p
Duncan, W.	12p to 225p	Summers, O.C.	3p to 34p
Fc Finance	5p to 47p	Sime Darby	5p to 102p
Home Charm	1p to 62p	Vickers	4p to 133p

Equities rose sharply on renewed buying from the major institutions.
Sterling rose by 10 points to \$2.3035. The "effective devaluation" rate was 25 per cent.
Gold rose by \$2.25 to \$168.25 an oz.

Gilt-edged stocks were firmer.
SDR-\$ was 1.24460 on Friday, while SDR-£ was 0.539886.
Commodities: Reuters' index closed at 1,076.2 yesterday (1,075.9 on Friday).

Reports, page 20 and 21

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.77	1.72
Austria Sch	39.50	37.50
Belgium Fr	84.50	81.75
Canada \$	2.42	2.37
Denmark Kr	12.85	12.45
Finland Mkk	8.35	8.10
France Fr	9.55	9.25
Germany DM	5.55	5.35
Greece Dr	69.00	66.75
Hongkong \$	11.60	11.25
Italy Lr	1455.00	1410.00
Japan Yn	700.00	670.00
Netherlands Gld	5.70	5.50
Norway Kr	11.60	11.25
Portugal Esc	56.50	54.50
S Africa Rd	1.88	1.81
Spain Pes	130.50	125.50
Sweden Kr	9.30	9.00
Switzerland Fr	5.90	5.70
US \$	2.34	2.29
Yugoslavia Dnr	39.00	37.00

Rates for bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

On other pages

Engineers make a fresh move for unity

By Derek Harris

For 10 months the focus of controversy over a restructuring of the engineering profession, the Council of Engineering Institutions, is understood to be making a major extension to plans aimed at strengthening unity in the profession.

It could open the way for voting power within a reorganized CEI by some members of non-chartered engineering organizations, including technician engineers. *The CEI is now* the umbrella body merely for 15 chartered institutions out of a total of more than 40 organizations representing engineers' interests.

It could open the door of the chartered club to members of non-chartered bodies opting for affiliation with CEI, although only if they reached the accepted chartered standards as individuals. They would be able to vote only for direct-election candidates.

At present a non-chartered body like the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers could expect a majority of its members to gain a vote, and at least half the members of the *Institute of Measurement* and Control would probably also meet the criteria.

When voting powers for non-chartered engineers were mooted earlier in the restructure controversy it proved an *explosive issue among some of* the chartered bodies, who feared a virtual takeover by the numerically stronger technician engineers.

The new formula looks like offering a way round that *problem while still creating an* opportunity of uniting the two main bodies of the profession.

Fragmentation of the two sides has previously given rise to calls for parallel umbrella institutions for chartered engin*eers on one hand and technician* engineers on the other.

Another new idea emerging at the CEI, it is understood, is for the integral Engineers Registration Board, which has the majority of engineers of every *grade on its books, to channel* discussions with Government on European harmonization problems. These will loom large if the June referendum keeps Britain in the EEC.

This idea could allay the *increasing anxieties of the* Department of Industry, responsible for the professions, which fears a damaging indecisiveness among engineers during European negotiations.

The CEI has made soundings *on its extended plans, and dis*cussions on restructure are now reportedly going well.

Motor trade expert urges dealers to review new stocks as orders fall

By Clifford Webb

Forecasts of further recession in sales of new cars are worrying the motor trade. *Manufacturers fear this loss of* confidence could result in reduced orders and more short-time in factories.

One of the gloomiest predictions came yesterday from Mr *Ronald Sewell, a motor* trade consultant, who has called his clients to an emergency meeting on June 11 to discuss crisis tactics.

Mr Sewell said the level of new car registrations in the first four months of *1975* indicated a year end total of nearly 1.3 million cars as against manufacturers' forecasts of no more than a million.

"This would imply that in the remaining eight months of this year there will be an average drop in monthly registrations of 39 per cent. This would leave dealers grossly overstocked."

He urged dealers to review new vehicle stocks and if *necessary reduce orders.* He also gave warning that if this was done it would be necessary to make good the shortfall by improved sales of used cars.

Price cutting and the widespread use of incentive schemes *are being blamed for* the pessimism.

Mr Sewell, who is rapidly acquiring a reputation as one of the manufacturers' toughest critics, also attacked the bulk deposit scheme which requires dealers to deposit large sums with the manufacturers based on expected sales.

He said there was strong evidence to suggest that this money was being used to improve manufacturers' working capital at a time when dealers urgently needed it for their own cashflow problems.

Mr Sewell advocates a simpler "sale or return" scheme involving a fair element of part payment. If manufacturers were incurring heavy costs in storing surplus vehicles, they could supply them on "free loan" to dealers until they were actually sold.

Edward Townsend writes: The Department of Industry said yesterday that the *total turn*over of the motor trades in the first quarter of the year was 30 per cent higher than in the same period of last year, although sales at that time were badly depressed by the three-day week and shortage of petrol.

The value of new vehicle sales was also up 30 per cent over last year with used vehicle sales up 32 per cent. A 30 per cent increase was also recorded for other sales and receipts which includes petrol, oil, tyres, spares and repairs.

CWS going ahead with investment

By David Young

Britain's tenth largest business, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, is to go ahead with its multimillion investment programme in preparation for an expected recovery in the economy in *1977*, Mr Arthur Sugden, its chief executive, said yesterday.

Like most businesses, the CWS could not regard 1974 as a highly successful year, but he was not pessimistic about the future.

In 1974 the *CWS* saw sales grow by 27 per cent—£190m—to £903m, although its profit at £9.6m, after £6m depreciation, was £3.7m less than in the previous year. The turnover does not include that of the two main *CWS subsidiaries*, the Co-operative Bank and the Co-operative Insurance Society.

Mr Sugden said: "The perspective of full recovery seems to be moving back from 1976 to 1977. Our refusal to retrench *our capital investment pro*gramme this year is an indication of our confidence in the future."

He hoped the Government would recognize the difficulties and give some relief—to food *manufacturers in particular*—by easing some Price Code rules.

Food division trade last year totalled £650.9m excluding VAT, an increase of £126.6m or 24.1 per cent, on 1973 sales, which included Scottish trade for the *second half of the year only.* Non-food sales totalled £174m, an increase of £33.3m.

Yarrow chairman attacks 'unfair' takeover terms

By Peter Hill

Government terms for the acquisition of specialist naval shipbuilders, Yarrow (Shipbuilders), one of the companies scheduled for nationalization were attacked as "totally inadequate" by the company's chairman, Sir Eric Yarrow yesterday.

In a letter to shareholders urging them to write to their MPs to protest, Sir Eric said that for a total price which might not be more than £4.64m the Government would acquire net tangible assets of more than £10m and a company which earned pre-tax profits of over £7m in the last financial year.

Although the price would be a matter for negotiation with the Government, Sir Eric said that the average share price of the parent firm, Yarrow and Co, would be a relevant factor.

The Government had said that compensation would be "fair", but it was clear that a valuation of the company related to the average price of parent company shares would be "manifestly unfair".

Sir Eric emphasized that the shipbuilding company was progressive, well-managed and its worth was not adequately reflected in the Yarrow share price.

He also claimed that Government-imposed dividend restraint during the chosen reference period had depressed the Yarrow share price; the nationalization Bill contained no provisions for valuation adjustments to take account of changes in company circumstances, and that share prices quoted on the Stock Exchange reflected the value of small parcels of shares, whereas in a general offer to shareholders a premium was invariably paid over the company's share price immediately before the bid.

Burmah orders Marconi system for Thistle field

A communications system worth more than £250,000 has been ordered by Burmah Oil for the Thistle field development in the North Sea about 140 miles north-east of Shetland.

The order has gone to Marconi Communications Systems which has supplied similar systems to British Petroleum, Phillips, Occidental, Mobil and Total.

BSA chief says mortgages must stay rationed

Despite the record funds flowing into Britain's building societies, their new leader, Mr Raymond Potter, yesterday gave a warning that mortgages would have to stay rationed.

Mr Potter, chairman of the Building Societies' Association, added: "We must try to ensure house prices do not rise to an unnecessary extent."

He told the annual meeting of the Halifax, Britain's largest society, of which he is chairman, that this was not a matter which could be solved in isolation. "It is, therefore, imperative that Government should direct its attention to firmly arresting the evil of inflation, or at least substantially reducing its present pace."

As long as inflation continued both building costs and house prices would rise. Mr Potter said the Halifax advanced more in mortgages last year than the year before. "However, such was the demand and such continues to be the demand, that rationing continues to be the order of the day."

The foremost problem was to restore confidence in the private sector of house building. Societies must be seen to have ample cash so that builders would know there was money available to buy the houses they built.

Coal leader says gas price policy misleading

A leading coal trader yesterday attacked the gas industry's pricing policy. Mr Peter Hawksfield, chairman of the Chamber of Coal Traders said the Government should adopt a more logical pricing policy for energy generally.

Gas from the southern North Sea field, together with supplies from the more expensive Frigg and Brent fields in the far north would be exempt from petroleum revenue tax, he said after the *annual* meeting of the Coal Industry Society.

This meant that the British Gas Corporation could continue for some time to offer the domestic customer in particular what were apparently attractive prices, and many customers would convert to gas believing that the existing price differential would be maintained.

But as the higher cost Brent and Frigg gas became available, and at a later date when gas was produced which carried PRT, those customers who had the expense of converting to gas may find they were no better off at all. This was "misleading and inequitable".

Hitachi aims to step up colour TV production

Tokyo, May 19.—Hitachi intends to increase colour television production to around 90,000 sets a month from the beginning of June from a little more than 70,000 this month, a spokesman said here today.

Production was held down to between 60,000 and 70,000 a month from January to April because of weak domestic and export demand and the need to cut inventories.

By the end of this month, *stocks are expected to* be back to normal levels of about two months' production, and demand while still slow has been picking up.

The spokesman said Hitachi aims to maintain a monthly output of 90,000 units, at least until the end of September.

Investment eased: The government will decontrol direct foreign investments in Japanese retail business entirely from next month, subject to formal Cabinet approval on Friday, the Finance Ministry said.

The Foreign Investment Council submitted recommendations to the Finance Minister that Japan should open the retail trade to foreign capital as early as possible, it was stated.—Reuter.

Greece repeals tax privileges

*Athens, May 19.—Special cor*porate and personal tax privileges given to foreign companies based in Greece but operating outside the country have been repealed by the Government.

Many of the 62 American companies involved are those which set up regional headquarters in Athens to administer sales and supply operations in the Middle East or eastern Mediterranean area.

The move is part of the Government's process of reexamining laws and contract dealings with foreign business as they existed under the military regimes of Colonel George Papadopoulos and his successors.

British Airways switch to BABS reservation system

Computer news

British Airways has switched over to the new BABS reservations system for its overseas division, and plans to complete the changeover with the inclusion of the European division next November.

Last June the airline's new IBM 370 computer system took over the reservations work for the overseas division from the earlier 360s, but in the initial stage of the conversion this involved continuing with the former Boudicea system programs.

Now the more powerful and comprehensive BABS system, designed for both long-haul and short-haul operations, is handling the overseas division flight reservations.

In the final switch-over next November, the European reservations which are handled at present on the ex-BEA Beacon Univac-based system will also be absorbed.

British Airways is one of 14 international airlines which grouped together last October to complain to IBM about the performance of their reservations computer systems, and about the lack of support given *by the company in solving* hardware and software problems.

The airlines formed a joint committee which presented their complaints to IBM at meetings held in October and in January. Last week a third meeting was held, *to review the* IBM response to the complaints.

British Airways describes this meeting as "constructive", while IBM declines to comment on it. A further meeting is planned for July.

Yesterday IBM confirmed that Mr Alec Henderson had succeeded Mr Jack Atkinson as director of the company's International Airlines Support Centre at Feltham, Middlesex. This centre is the main point of contact with the company for the international airline customers.

Mr Henderson moved into his new position last month. Mr Atkinson was at present on an assignment for IBM's European headquarters, a spokesman for the company said, and would be retiring later this year.

The maintenance service provided by IBM for the BABS computer system is now being evaluated by British Airways following an outside audit of this service.

This audit was conducted by an Australian company, Data Processing Customer Engineering of Sydney, which reported back to the airline recently.

Warehouse system

Honeywell computers and Vaughan Programming Services software are in use at an automated warehouse which has been designed for Lever Brothers at Port Sunlight, Cheshire.

Twin Model 316 computers are used in a "worker/standby" *system in which the* "worker" computer carries out on-line control of seven stacker cranes and associated conveyors, using digital input and output.

Normal operation of the whole warehouse is under the *stock control of the on-line* computer system. The standby computer provides on-line stock file and other inquiry facilities in conjunction with a line printer.

Programmes were written by Vaughan under sub-contract to Honeywell. Vaughan has now designed a package warehouse computer system which can handle all-crane, all-manual or mixed-operation warehouses.

Creation of ADAM

An operating system which, it is claimed, enables the benefits of the minicomputer to be applied by general commercial users has been introduced by Advanced Information Access, London.

Known as ADAM (Advanced data access method), the system is available on the Allied Business Systems Multibus computer at present. Discussions are under way with other minicomputer suppliers.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unnecessary payment of insurance contributions

From Mr David Hobman

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Hubbard (May 8) points out that unnecessary national insurance contributions may well be paid by the self employed near to retirement age.

In fact the situation is far worse than he, or perhaps anyone else, realizes.

Under rules starting from April 6 only about 85 per cent to 90 per cent of possible contributions have to be paid to qualify for a full retirement pension, and anyone within three years of pensionable age with a full record back to 1948 could safely stop contributing without losing his or her entitlement to a full retirement pension. Unfortunately, no employed person is allowed to exercise this option and I am very surprised that Mr Hubbard was allowed to either.

The only people who can choose to pay less contributions are married women, who can elect to pay only a lower percentage contribution and, in fact, they are advised to make this choice automatically during the months of the last tax year up to their 60th birthday.

Apart from paying unnecessary contributions in the last years of working, most people will be paying unnecessary contributions in the last weeks of every tax year.

Contributions are now paid as a percentage of earnings (up to £69 a week for 1975-6), and a full *contribution* record for a tax year simply means that contributions have been paid on £550 of earnings. For someone earning £11 a week, this means contributing for 50 weeks, but for someone earning £69 a week (£3,588 a year) or more it *means* contributing for eight weeks.

So, if your salary is £3,588 or more, then for the last 44 weeks of each tax year your contributions are wasted in terms of qualifying for retirement pension and other flat rate benefits. There is no way of opting out of these contributions either.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID HOBMAN, Director,
National Old People's Welfare Council,
Bernard Sunley House,
60 Pitcairn Road,
Mitcham, Surrey.

Brittle defence of Bill

From Mr George Loftus

Sir, Mr Michael Meacher gives a number of bland assurances as to the innocent intentions of the Industry Bill and the role of the *National Enterprise Board* it would set up, but unfortunately some of his defences do not bear too close examination.

If regeneration of British industry is the aim, bolstering up moribund companies is not the way to do it. Regeneration occurs when old cells die and new ones take their place. The normal processes of the market would achieve this.

We have heard so often the claim that publicly-owned industries have closer public supervision than their private counterpart. That is just not true. There is a strict ban on parliamentary questions about the day-to-day affairs of state corporations, whereas matters concerning private firms may be raised at any time. Discussion once a year of the annual report of a nationalized industry savours of bolting the stable door after the horse has flown.

What, may one ask, is the worth of a requirement that the NEB should be guided by directives from the responsible minister when that minister is currently one dedicated to the ideal of public ownership and workers' control?

Mr Meacher's arguments about disclosure to unions are surely specious. Of course, a representatives of a trade union could be an employee, but enlightened companies already give as much information as is commercially expedient to their employees and it does not require an Act to encourage them to do so. If the Bill means only a union representative who is an employee of the company concerned, it should clearly say so. It is useless to tell us how well-behaved Dutch unions have been. In this country we have to deal with unions that by and large behave like enemies of employers and the system generally.

Finally, NEB acquisitions. There is apparently nothing to stop NEB, with the minister's connivance, quietly buying shares "by agreement" to gain control of an ever-increasing range of companies.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE LOFTUS,
78 Carlton Avenue,
Preston Road,
Wembley,
Middlesex.

Forbidden matrimoni[al] adventure

From Sir John Foster

Sir, I hope that your ... will not be incited to ... in forbidden matri... adventures by Mrs V... Palma's advice in your i... May 10, to a father to ... his son's fiancée, then ... her "leaving her free to ... her stepson". She added ... toon showing the fathe... ing very irate marrying ... ticularly dumb blonde w... son looks on with a smi...

I think Mrs di Pal... confused incest (a c... offence since the early ... only) with marriage. Th... riage Act 1949, section ... dule 1, renders a marri... tween a man and hi... mother void.

Surely many of your ... remember the pr... degrees of marriage, ... they perused at the be... of the prayer book du... *duller portions of the A...* services they were co... to attend by school or ... authorities. The father ... first establish a domic... country allowing such ... riage.

JOHN FOSTER,
2 Hare Court,
Temple, London, EC4.

Trade marks

From Mr J. Martin Wil[son]

Sir, British industry, ... sented to a signific... increasing extent in the ... trade mark rights by ... of this institute, certa... not accept that the re... stantial increases in off... in trade mark and pa... cedures is either ov... justified.

Official fees were ... creased as recently as ... and, in fact, the not... for the submission of ... following the announc... the impending impo... subsequent and far m... stantial increases, in t... Marks Journal of M... 1975, was scant.

Contrary to the impl... tion of your correspon... *R. Arits (April 27), th...* members of this Inst... professional services ... been increased as a ... the increases in officia...

J. MARTIN WILSON,
President,
The Institute of Trade ... Agents,
69 Cannon Street, Lon...

Business appointments

Chairman-designate at Laporte

Mr R. M. Ringwald will become chairman of Laporte Industries Holdings following the retirement at the end of the year of Mr J. L. Harvey. At the same time, Mr G. F. Sommerville will become managing director, chief executive and vice-chairman.

Mr H. J. Hinves has been appointed non-executive vice-chairman of Selection Trust with effect from July 30.

Mr James Sanger *has resigned* as a director of Henderson Administration and Henderson Unit Trust Management and as managing director of Henderson Financial Management.

Mr Ronald Brown has been elected president and chief executive *officer* of Houston National Bank of Texas. He was also elected to the board.

Mr L. J. C. Evans has accepted an invitation to join the board of Booker McConnell's, Agricultural Division as a part-time director.

Mr John H. Walbeoffe-Wilson has *joined* Oil & *Mining* Services as a senior petroleum consultant to advise non-operating North Sea consortia members and City financiers.

Mr E. L. Hughes has been made a director of Baker Perkins.

Mr G. V. Cooper has joined the board of Guest Keen & Nettlefolds (Overseas).

Mr Eric Osborn has been appointed secretary of the Millard Group.

Mr J. C. Graden, director general products for the Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co in the United Kingdom is returning to parent company headquarters in Akron, Ohio, to become vice-president, general products, for the Goodyear International Corporation from July 1.

Mr J. B. Leslie has been appointed managing director of Alcan Ireland.

Mr C. Colebourn has resigned from the board of English National Investment Co.

On June 1 Mr Bob Hazelton is joining Chapman Fraser & Co as marketing director-designate.

Mr D. U. Latner and Mr R. M. Klein have joined the board of Ramar Textiles.

Mr Donald Joyce has been appointed manufacturing director of Wildt Mellor Bromley.

Mr George Albone has been named president of The Lincoln Red Cattle Society.

Mr Richard Chambers of Crittall Warmlife succeeds Mr John Baker of John Baker (Insulation) as chairman of the Cavity Foam Insulation Association.

Mr Tony Chalmers has joined the board of A & A Benefacts (UK) as marketing director.

Herr W. von Ilsemann, deputy general manager of Deutsche Shell, has been elected president of the World Petroleum Congress.

Mr H. Howland is to become secretary of Bestobell on July 7.

Mr A. W. Perry, marketing director of the Bejam group, has been elected chairman of the Food Freezer and Refrigerator Council.

Mr S. Burton has ... board of Selincourt.

Mr T. Weatherby ... director of Hall and ...

Dr G. V. Planer has ... non-executive director ... Electronic.

Mr P. W. Walker ... as a director of Alfred ... Son and Mr R. A. L. ... been appointed chairma... Yates is managing dire...

Mr A. H. Fraser has ... a director of Anthony ...

Mr J. A. W. Murray ... the board of Macdonald ... a DCL subsidiary.

Mr B. C. Feldman ... S. F. Prescott have b... directors of Ayrton Me...

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Looking for trends in banking

...ıds are not established by ... month's figures. But when ...ers talk widely of increas... activity in the London ...sit markets and the Bank of ... and then produces statistics ... back up these generalized ...essions it is at least worth ...g note. What the figures ... is that, after six static ...hs, banking business was ...g off again in April.

...us total deposits of all ...ed Kingdom banks, which ... grown by under 1 per cent ...een September and March, ... up by no less than 2.2 per ... between March and April. ... in that broad total the ...ng markets remained flat, ... deposits still below last ...er's peak, and it has been ... to the foreign currency ...it markets to make the ...ing.

...ierican banks here appear ...e reasserting themselves, ...ing deposit growth of over ... cent last month, but they ... still not recovered to last ...mber's level. The real ...sion in foreign currency ...its over the past six ...s has come from the other ...eas banks and from the ...h banks.

... exception is the Accepting ...s, the elite of the British ...ant banks, which, if not ...ly contracting much ...r, can at best only be ...bed as consolidating. ...g minor fluctuations, their ...its, presently £4,740m, ... been little changed since ...September. But up until ... there had been a rapid ...ction at a time when most ... were still pushing ahead ...sively.

Accepting House deposits ...urrently 15 per cent down ... January 1974 (with the ...st falls occurring in the ...n currency area), com... to a gain over the same ... by the clearing banks of ... 15 per cent and by the ...l Kingdom banking ...t as a whole of over 18 ...nt. These figures do not, ...urse, take in the with... of Brandts from the ...ing Houses Committee.

...hant banks were not ...n feeling the need to con... ...heir balance sheets last ...ut whereas other banks ...ppear to be showing a ...e return of confidence ...cepting Houses still seem ...er a low profile.

...d Motor

...ating ...ts?

...her small engineers with ...nt market shares, Sealed ... which has around two-... of the domestic central ... pump business in the ... Kingdom, looked like a ...duck for a takeover bid-... yesterday it got two. First ... offering equity worth ...r SMC share, then Ad-... possibly hoping that ... share price would take ...s badly, with 40p of 10½ ...or loan stock which ... command par. SMC ...ders, who may well ...en feeling a little un-... ...ce the interim results, ...reat these bids as sight... ...ts, even though their ...appears to have acted ...recipitously and recom-... the Adwest terms

... this week Myson will ...n its intent with some ...remarks and, more im-...y, announce new lines of ...-term finance, which ...he latest balance-sheet ...: if its bid is to have ...ty. Adwest, too, may ...enty up its sleeve in terms of prospects. But since Adwest has the recommendation, it is now Myson's move—and it has over 12½ per cent of SMC, some 10 per cent of which it bed-and-breakfasted last year.

Official inquiries

The time they take

Recent publication of the first official list of Department of Trade investigations is evidence of a growing appetite for intervention. Including the two investigations that have been announced since the turn of the year, the department has some 13 on the stocks at the present time.

Of these—and the list dates back to 1970—all but one have been started within the past couple of years. While this acceleration of activity reflects the tone of popular and official sentiment since Mr Heath's famous utterance on the "unacceptable face of capitalism" it also pinpoints some of the inadequacies in the present machinery for protecting shareholders and creditors. The longest running investigation, that into now defunct Corton Beach Holdings has been going since the beginning of 1970, and nearly three years have passed since the compilation of the interim report.

Investigations are rarely that lengthy, but theoretically a management whose actions have precipitated the inquiry could remain in the saddle while the investigation takes place. More worrying is the time-lag between an event and the decision to investigate it. This point is underlined by the very recent appointment of inspectors at Dowgate & General. It is now more than 18 months since the unhappy saga of the Grendon Trust and Mr Christopher Selmes' CST Investments became public knowledge.

The department's reluctance to leap into an investigation is natural. It looks, for instance, as if its investigation into Lonrho, initiated in the heat of the moment could prove to be an embarrassing waste of time. But the investigation announced just two week ago, into Bryanston Finance is perhaps the most badly timed of all. Initiated after some lengthy barracking by shareholders it was announced just after a bid from a private company owned by Bryanston's chairman and controlling shareholder had gone unconditional amidst warnings as to the group's financial position if the much criticised offer was rejected.

Apparent lack of interest by the department could also have some strange side effects on shareholders' ability to pursue their interests through other channels. In the legal side battle between a Bryanston shareholder and the group's chairman the defence suggested in Court that the fact that the Department of Trade had not as yet seen fit to act officially on the shareholder's complaint perhaps said something about the quality of the evidence.

North Sea Oil

Speculative counters

Tricentrol's share price remained unchanged at 78p yesterday after disclosure of a 30 per cent drop in profits for the year, indicating the extent to which the shares are propped up by North Sea prospects. Fair enough, though Tricentrol is still dependent on successfully negotiating a Government guarantee for £38.3m to retain its 8.4 per cent stake in Thistle field and to arrange project finance.

Meanwhile, the gas and oil exploration division apparently did well enough last year though Tricentrol has been unwilling to dig into earnings on that side to pay a dividend, preferring to concentrate on retaining reserves to finance the North Sea. Commercial division clearly had a bad year. The engineering group has been closed and travel operations curtailed. In this context the derisory yield and the p/e ratio of around 13½ marks the shares as a definite speculation and one where prospective government participation could obviously dilute outside forecasts of eventual earnings of up to 100p a share on Thistle.

Berry Wiggins is a changed animal too, with oil servicing activities contributing the lion's share (£554,000) last year rather than traditional bitumen refining and storage activities. BW's policy of entering the North Sea largely via service activities (eg, KCA Drilling) looks well judged at this stage and the Gold Fields deal will finance more speculative exploration activities, up to the point of a find at least. At 80p, though, the shares are still leaning upon the more speculative side of the business.

Berry Wiggins
Final: 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £9.7m
Sales £19.9m (£9.0m)
Pre-tax profits £1.26m (£1.09m)
Earnings per share 4.58p (3.77p)
Dividend gross 2.93p (2.83p)

Tricentrol
Final: 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £12.2m
Sales £48.3m (£37.4m)
Pre-tax profits £1.81m (£1.45m)
Earnings per share 5.9p (7.1p)
Dividend gross 1.6p* (3.2p)
*Interim only.

Bunzl

A warning note

Final figures a little better than those mooted at the interim stage at Bunzl Pulp & Paper were counter-balanced yesterday by a warning on the outcome for 1975. Bunzl managed to raise its pre-tax total 64 per cent to £14.1m with progress virtually across the board—the major exception being the continuing downturn in United Kingdom cigarette filter profits.

There, the factors were destocking by tobacco manufacturers and cost pressures, and the Budget will not help. But against this there is an overseas content which, with exports, amounts to around 75 per cent of profits. Ahead, however, lies a decline in demand for paper, packaging and plastics. Hence the forecast that profits are expected to fall back although they should be maintained above those of 1973—inferring perhaps something around the £10m level. At 99p, selling at 4.6 times historic earnings and yielding 5.6 per cent the shares have had their run for the present.

Final: 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £25.9m
Sales £150m (£94.5m)
Pre-tax profits £14.1m (£8.58m)
Earnings per share 21.3p (14.3p)
Dividend gross 5.55p (4.93p)

Drawbacks to legal aid in the 'workers' courts'

Eric Wigham examines the growing role of the Industrial Tribunals

After 10 years of existence the Industrial Tribunals have become an integral part of Britain's industrial life. As Act after Act gives them new jobs to do they become more and more "labour courts" to which workers turn readily—where they might fight shy of an ordinary court of law—because they are informal, quick, accessible and cheap.

But there are some fears that they may lose something of these attributes. The Lord Chancellor's Committee on Tribunals has recommended that legal aid should be available to those appearing before them. No decision has yet been taken and the TUC oppose the change, but if it is decided upon it will tend to reduce the informality of the hearings and probably result in some delays before they take place.

The rapidly increasing number of cases will in any event impose some strain on the legal profession. The number of applications to tribunals may prove to have tripled in the two years from the end of 1974.

Last year they received about 15,000, say, 300 a week by the end of the year. By the end of this year the number may have risen to 600 a week, mainly as a result of the reduction in March of the period of service necessary before complaints of unfair dismissal can be made from 52 to 26 weeks under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act.

The workload will be further increased by cases arising out of the Equal Pay Act, which comes into force in December, and presumably out of the Sex Discrimination Bill. To these will be added a variety of subjects on which an employee may seek remedy from a tribunal under the Employment Protection Bill. These include the guaranteed week, maternity leave, the right to take part in trade union activities, time off for trade union duties and for public duties and a number of other provisions.

Altogether these additions could bring the number of applications next year to between 40,000 and 50,000, say, 900 a week. About half the cases never reach the tribunals because they have been withdrawn or settled by conciliation before the hearing, but the workload is nevertheless going to be heavy.

The number of tribunal chairmen, who must be lawyers under 72, often barristers tired of travelling the circuits or middle-aged solicitors easing up a bit, will need to be substantially increased. At present there are nearly 40 full-time and 60 or 70 part-time chairmen. Their fee for a day was increased from £30 to £45 at the beginning of this year—a 50 per cent rise justified by the fact that it is the first since 1972. Probably another 100 will have to be found to cope with the increased workload.

The 1,500 employers and trade unionists on the panels from which the other members of the three-man tribunals are drawn are also on the way to an increase on their rate of £13.65. Some of the trade unionists are officials but some are in employment and have to get time off, which they will be entitled to demand when the Employment Protection Bill becomes law.

Initially, the tribunals were not concerned with workers' rights. They were set up under the Industrial Training Act of 1964 to hear appeals by firms against having to pay a training levy or against the amount of levy on which they were assessed. In such cases the parties were often legally represented.

The following year, however, the Redundancy Payments Act not only enabled employers to get rulings from the tribunals on how much refund they should receive from the central redundancy fund, but also gave sacked employees the right to claim payments when these were refused, or larger payments than were offered.

The number of claims heard under the training Act grew fewer as test cases were settled and precedents established and, before long, redundancy cases dominated the tribunals' work. They were still given some work arising out of differences between employers and the state—for instance, over refunds under the Selective Employment Payments Act of 1966, but more and more they were used to settle arguments between the worker and his boss—for instance, to decide whether employees were given proper details of their terms of employment under the Contracts of Employment Act, whether certain work was dock work under the docks and Harbours Act and, most important of all, whether or not dismissals were fair under the Industrial Relations Act and later the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act.

Redundancy and unfair dismissal cases now make up the bulk of the tribunals' work and the new work they will be getting next year will also be concerned with employer-worker relations. Complaints must be brought by individuals who will seldom have much experience of the law. Legal aid can be important.

Employers were in the habit of employing lawyers in their disputes over industrial training levies and selective employment refunds. They have used them much less in disputes with workers over redundancy pay or unfair dismissal, but still more than employees have done.

The Department of Employment conducted a survey in London and Manchester to try to find out whether legal representation made a party more likely to win his case. A very slightly larger proportion of employers were successful in redundancy cases if they were legally represented than if they were not, but the difference was hardly large enough to be significant.

But in unfair dismissal cases, whereas the overall success rate was 40 per cent, the success rate of those who were legally represented was 55 per cent. About a quarter of the applicants (mostly those who were unsuccessful) felt they would have benefited by legal representation.

Applicants may, of course, have non-legal representation—for instance, a trade union official or even just a friend or relative to give them moral support. The tribunal help them as much as they can to make sure that relevant facts are elucidated.

Some trade union officials have a certain amount of legal knowledge or experience. They tended to neglect their members during the period of the Industrial Relations Act, when some 300 trade unionists also resigned from the tribunals, but nowadays they seem to give them what help they can. But the growth in the number of cases imposes a new burden on their time.

Delay in fixing a hearing is often a matter of importance for a man who has been dismissed; especially if there is a question of reinstatement. At present the hearing takes place on average eight or nine weeks after an application is received.

The employers have to be given two weeks to prepare their reply and then the papers have to be sent to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to give an opportunity for settlement by conciliation. And after they have finished at least two weeks' notice has to be given of the hearing.

All this may take two or three weeks longer if one or both parties is legally represented.

It seems that the balance of advantage and disadvantage in allowing legal aid is a fine one. One logical way out would be to disallow legal representation altogether, but it is generally accepted that there are cases in which it is necessary.

Frank Vogl reports on the sharply differing views about the United States outlook

America's economy: the official optimism which businessmen do not share

In the American Administration nowadays there is a growing belief that the worst is over for the economy and that the second half of 1975 will see rapid growth. The mood of optimism is almost unanimous in official circles.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, has predicted that unemployment may fall much more rapidly than most expectations. At the Federal Reserve, the chairman, Arthur Burns, also seems confident about the way the economy is going.

Even those who do have doubts, such as Treasury Secretary William Simon, are becoming worried that the upturn in the economy will cause problems, such as renewed inflation, rather than that the economy will not turn up at all or that it will take a long time to begin its recovery.

Businessmen, however, are a lot more hesitant. Gathering their views is no substitute for econometric models and crisp surveys and statistical analysis, but their thoughts about the future determine the strategies of their companies.

The construction industry is now in deeper trouble than all other sectors, and few of its leaders share Mr Simon's view that new housing starts will rise to an annual rate and, because their companies are so large, the actions decided upon have a profound impact on the economy's general development.

Most businessmen want to talk only about their own sectors, rather than the outlook for the economy as a whole. So long as they know they will not be quoted by name they are willing to talk about their fears and hopes.

The recent meeting of the Business Council, which groups together the country's main business leaders, provided a chance to sound out their views.

One of the textile industry chiefs noted that capacity utilization in his sector was in many cases below 60 per cent today, and while there were signs that wholesalers and retailers were finally coming to an end of a period of cutting stocks, it was still far too early to claim that the industry was out of trouble.

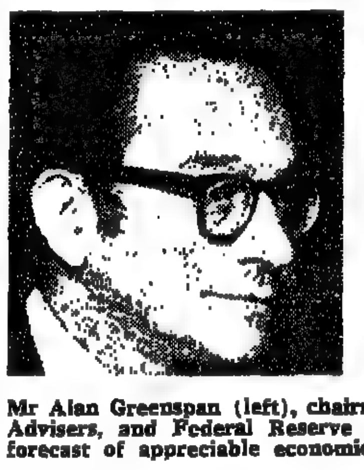
"It will be months before we are working profitably again", he said, adding that it would be a long time before the mills rehired the labour they had laid off. Many textile companies were going to be forced to raise prices, even though this would bring delays in a demand upswing, which, he said, appeared to be a factor that the Administration officals appeared to have neglected in their forecasts.

Chairmen of retailing companies said it was nonsense to expect the tax rebates and tax cuts to lead to a large increase in demand for "big ticket items".

They expected increases in demand to start with low cost items and build up gradually. "Consumer confidence is still extremely low", said one chairman, who said real signs of a return to health for the economy might not be seen before early 1976.

of roughly double the current level by the end of the year. Mr Simon's forecast is based largely on expectations of rising consumer confidence and the recent heavy inflow of new savings to banks.

The construction industry leaders stress there is still a vast inventory of unsold new houses, that mortgage rates are still high and that banks appear to be acting with extreme caution in granting new housing loans.




Mr Alan Greenspan (left), chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Federal Reserve chairman Dr Arthur Burns; a forecast of appreciable economic growth

For these reasons these experts see a much slower pace of upswing than the Treasury Secretary, and they add that there is still no evidence that "the depression in construction has even ended".

The situation in the automobile industry is particularly confusing. Officials seem to believe that new car sales will reach an annual rate of 9.5 million units by the fourth quarter, from a level in April of little above seven million. Leaders of the big car companies share this view.

Mr Greenspan said at the council meeting that the attitudes of Americans towards the car were in the process of changing and moving towards smaller and more fuel-efficient models. This was the reason, he said, for the success of foreign manufacturers in the United States market in recent months.

But the car industry leaders do not give the impression that they believe American attitudes are changing. They still maintain that the American love affair with big cars continues.

If Mr Greenspan is right and the unit sales forecasts are accurate, then it could mean that the foreign manufacturers will account for a good deal of the increase in car sales in the months ahead, because Detroit is showing few signs of making radical changes in its model ranges.

The result will be that the car makers will continue to be plagued with deep problems and the continued sluggishness of their sales will hinder the whole pace of the United States economic recovery.

The chairman of one of the largest oil companies expressed grave concern about the lack of action by Congress on the energy front and feared that utilities and energy companies might suffer severe problems because of a lack of capital.

One copper company chief said that while world copper prices might rise by the autumn, the industry, like the economy, was unlikely to see much growth for many months to come.

Placing the comments of the individual business leaders together, a picture emerges of an economy that will move ahead in the second half of 1976 at an almost imperceptibly slow pace, with unemployment remaining as big a problem at the year's end as it is today.

Certainly the impression is not one that supports the views of Mr Simon, Mr Greenspan and Dr Burns, that 5 per cent real national product growth is likely in the second half, let alone the even more optimistic forecasts now being made by a host of respected academic and bank economists.

It could well be that the businessmen are displaying an excess of caution and pessimism as a reaction to what has proved to be their excessively optimistic views of six months ago.

Nevertheless the Business Council membership represents immense economic power, and the caution of the businessmen today is a valuable counterweight to the present optimism of Washington officials—an optimism that to some degree is based on political considerations rather than on thorough and objective economic research.

Business Diary: Hook of Holland • Out of print?

...nong the Government's ... young advisers, drafted ... Labour came to power, ...g is stirring. Stuart ... special adviser to ...lart, Minister for Over-... ...elopment, has a book ...lay which implicitly ... the Prime Minister ...ring down Labour's in-... policy.

...ms one of those occa-... ...en it is more important ...s the stirring than what ... stirred, for Holland ...t the beginning of the ...rsial National Enter-... ...ard and the Planning ...nts System.

...d, who is 35, is an ...t and with the left ...ivered in his Strategy ...cialism (Spokesman, ...5p) it looks as if he ... in trouble with the ...Minister. Still, Holland ...or Mr Wilson in the ... Government and re-... ...en. There could always ...nd time.

...ng odds

...lchral gloom of Wood ...ity, is being enlivened ...s by the presence of ...om the neighbourhood ... firm of Mabbutt & ... They have been picket-... ...ont and back entrances ...amuel on off all month ...up to put pressure on ...xander, a director of ...'s investment banking ...who privately also owns ... & Johnston, litho ...to the likes of Ideal ...d Readers' Digest.

...rsday the normal com-... of four pickets will be ...y the arrival of a pro-... ...f sympathizers headed ...Bidwell, the Tribune ... and Labour MP for ...outhall.

... 40 printing workers from three unions have been sitting in at the firm's Ironmonger Lane premises since the beginning of the month. John Foster, a photo litho retoucher who speaks for the men, said the sit-in started after Alexander called the men in one day to ask for one in four redundancies, only to inform them by letter the next day that the firm would be closing down.

Alexander, however, says that the letter was written after an unsuccessful "final" meeting at which he tried to make it clear that unless 12 redundancies were accepted, then there was no alternative to closure. The meeting, in turn, had followed six months of consultation in which the men refused to contemplate any redundancies.

The men, he adds, can march until Kingdom Come as far as he is concerned. Work, other than that appropriated by the men, is being returned, management staff are under notice and it remains only for the men to emerge and collect their redundancy pay.

Bullish air

"When business is bad, sales of business aircraft seem to be good", Alvin Balaban, a marketing manager with the general aviation division of the United States multi-industry company Rockwell International, said in London yesterday.

To back up his claim, he had figures showing that during the seven months to April this year his division had delivered 103 aircraft, compared with 95 in the same period of 1973-74. Most of these were twin turboprops being used by corporations.

"In a time of recession, our customers tend to go farther afield in the United States to find new customers, and if they go farther afield, they need an aircraft instead of a car", Balaban explained. "A further point is that due to the energy crisis, some owners are changing over from business jets to jet-props—although the sales of our own Sabre jet are holding up well."

Balaban's story being so bullish, we tried it out on our own general aviation leaders, Fairey-Britten-Norman, at their base in the Isle of Wight. "Well", said Desmond Norman, one of the joint founders, "we are maintaining our sales, but we are having to work like dogs for every one."

"I believe there's a union rule, comrades, stating that it's illegal for democratic decisions to be taken by more than a quorum."

Sheep worry

Esso Petroleum, which for years has supplied Britain's farmers with oil and petrol, is now learning at first hand some of the problems that beset its rural customers. The oil giant owns a flock of 70 sheep, which with their shepherd and his two dogs are based at the Fawley refinery near Southampton to keep down the grass, particularly where there would be a fire risk from mechanical cutters.

But Esso's back-to-nature trip came to grief this weekend when two mongrels broke through the refinery fence and killed six of the flock and hurt eight others so badly that they had to be destroyed. The dogs got away.

Islamic bank

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Dubai are to operate an experimental, interest-free bank working in accord with the teachings of Islam. The Dubai Islamic Bank, is being launched in Dubai with $50m capital.

Kuwaiti finance minister Abdul Rahman Al-Atiqi recently regretted the necessity for Kuwaitis and their government to lend money at interest to foreign banks. Under Islamic precepts a Moslem is not allowed to receive interest on money he lends either to another Moslem or to a bank if the money is then borrowed by a Moslem.

Thus this bank will neither charge nor give interest to its customers. Explaining how the bank will cover overheads, a spokesman said each borrower will be charged a "handling fee", but because there is no profit the fee will be less than the interest rate charged by non-Moslem banks.

We're now looking for the office copy of the Bible.

Italian affair

A step forward in tackling Italy's scandals in public life has been taken with the announcement in Milan that an investigating magistrate has formally preferred charges against the Christian Democrat former Senator Graziano Verzotto and two other senior executives of the Sicilian regional government's minerals corporation.

They are charged with "participation in continued peculation", in that they allegedly received supplementary secret interest payments on the corporation's deposit accounts with two Milan banks, one of them the former Banca Unione of the Sindona group.

The three are accused in the magistrate's report of obtaining about 120m lire (about £80m), of which about 80m lire came from payment of an extra "black" 2 per cent in addition to the 5 per cent paid openly on the corporation's funds deposited with Banca Unione, and about 40m lire received in like manner from funds deposited with Banco Di Milano, a small Milan bank.

The magistrate furthermore reproaches Verzotto for allegedly trying to conceal the fact that he was a director of Banco Di Milano.

Afterthought: according to Ferranti's 1974 accounts the company gave £5,000 to the Conservative Board of Finance. And this year . . .?

LEGAL NOTICES
also on page 23

[illegible]

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 6th day of June 1975.

[illegible]

signed by the person or firm, or his or their Solicitor (if any) and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above named not later than 4.00 p.m. on the afternoon of Monday the 9th day of June 1975.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967 FREELANCE PRESENTATIONS Limited.
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at Hanging Sword House, 21 Whitefriars Street, London, EC4Y 8AL on Thursday, the 29th day of May 1975, at 3.30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
Dated this 12th day of May 1975.
By Order of the Board
S. E. MARSHALL
Secretary.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1967 THE IBIS ART GALLERY Limited.
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at Hanging Sword House, 21 Whitefriars Street, London, EC4Y 8AL on Thursday, the 29th day of May 1975, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
Dated this 12th day of May 1975.
By Order of the Board
S. E. MARSHALL
Secretary.

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 In the Matter of DOVERTON FILMS Limited. Nature of Business: Distributors of films.
WINDING-UP ORDER MADE 14th April, 1975.
DATE and PLACE of FIRST MEETINGS:
CREDITORS 3rd June, 1975, at Room 259, Templar House, 81 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6NP at 10.30 o'clock.
CONTRIBUTORIES on the same day and at the same place at 11.00 o'clock.
L. R. BATES, Official Receiver and Provisional Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

[illegible]

THE FAIRBRIDGE SOCIETY (INCORPORATED)

[illegible]

London. WC2B 4PY.

THE SAVAGE CLUB
I, ALAN WYKES, honorary secretary of the Savage Club give notice that on the 16th day of May 1975 application was made to the Bow Street Magistrates' court for a variation of the registration certificate of the Savage Club dated 23rd March, 1968 in respect of new premises at 9 Fitzmaurice Place, London, W.1.

Appointments Vacant
also on page 24

GENERAL VACANCIES

RETAIL MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
One of the largest retail store chains in the country are now offering a good basic salary and exceptional promotion prospects leading to potentially over £2,500 in the short term. Applicants educated to 'O' level and age 16-18 should call Alan Coffin on 405 0654.
DRAKE PERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant for the British Medical Association's Board of Science & Education. The work involves the administration of the Association's prize and research awards and servicing panels and working parties appointed by the Board to study medico-sociological subjects. The post might be of interest to science graduates but administrative experience is more important than academic qualifications. Salary approximately £2,500 p.a., excellent pension scheme. Hours 9 to 5. 4 weeks' holiday. Write giving details of experience and qualifications to Under Secretary (Admin.), B.M.A., Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JP.

GENERAL VACANCIES

COME SAIL WITH ME
An extremely attractive opportunity has recently become available through our client, a large international shipping organisation, for a young man aged 20+ with at least 2 years' general shipping experience. This position offers superb prospects with a starting salary of around £2,300. Please contact Rob Hutchinson on 734 0911.
DRAKE PERSONNEL

BOOKKEEPER required for Chelsea office. Immediate start. Must be experienced in double entry system, bank reconciliations and wages. Salary offered £2,850 per annum. Write Citrlend, 116 Draycott Avenue, S.W.3.

HAPPY PEOPLE TO join firm for the summer, £18 p.w., plus full board. Hugh Reynolds, Marlow (Bucks.) 4444.

WE REQUIRE a young lady or governess from 15/6-30/8 or permanently. Good references required. Excellent English, neat and efficient. Montanari, 5 Drève Rhododendrons, 1170 Bruxelles.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY of LONDON
UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION

The Council invites applications for appointment as

CHIEF EXAMINER

in Ordinary level ENGINEERING SCIENCE in the G.C.E. examination as from June 1977

Applicants should be graduates or hold appropriate qualifications and should be between the ages of 35 and 55 with three years recent teaching experience: experience in G.C.E. examining would be an advantage.
Application forms and particulars of remuneration, conditions of appointment and duties may be obtained from the Secretary to the University Entrance and School Examinations Council, University of London, 66-72 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EE, to whom completed forms should be returned not later than 6 June 1975. Applicants should state the subject and post and enclose a self-addressed foolscap envelope.

YORKSHIRE
RISHWORTH SCHOOL, RIPPONDEN, YORKSHIRE HX6 4PZ
HMC Coeducational Boarding (600 pupils)

ENGLISH RESIDENT MISTRESS
(Good Hons. Grad. essential)

Required September, 1975 to teach to "O" and "A" level standard with a view to becoming Head of Dept. in September, 1976 on retirement of present Head of Dept. Houghton Scale III. Free accommodation and allowance as Assistant Housemistress.

JUNIOR CLASS TEACHER
for age range 8-11 yrs. required September, 1975. Resident man or woman. Possible accommodation if married. Scale I. Free accommodation if resident. Willingness to take part in many and varied activities essential.
Apply immediately to THE HEADMASTER, RISHWORTH SCHOOL, RIPPONDEN, YORKSHIRE HX6 4PZ giving name and address of 2 referees.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Professor & Head
of the
School of Agricultural Engineering

Enquiries are invited for the post of Head of the National College of Agricultural Engineering, which will become vacant on 1st August, 1975, and when the National College will be incorporated with the Cranfield Institute of Technology as a School of Agricultural Engineering.

The salary attached to the post will be within the University professional range and commensurate with the responsibilities of the post.

Further details of the post may be obtained from the Staff Appointments Officer, ( ), Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield, Bedford, MK43 0AL.

Cranfield
in association with the National College of Agricultural Engineering

Applications are invited for the following posts, for which applications close on the dates shown. SALARIES (unless otherwise stated) are as follows: Professor $A22,750; Reader $A19,580; Senior Lecturer $A15,400-$A17,500; Lecturer $A11,250-$A15,100. Further details, conditions of appointment for each post, method of application and application form, where applicable, may be obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts.), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

University of New England
Armidale, New South Wales

SENIOR LECTURER/ LECTURERS— FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for appointment at Senior Lecturer (one position) and Lecturer level (two positions) in the Centre for Behavioural Studies in Education, a newly established department within the Faculty of Education. It offers courses for the Diploma in Education, various first degrees, the M.Ed. and Litt.B. degrees, and is involved in the supervision of *postgraduate* research degrees.

The areas of interest in which appointments are invited include human development, educational psychology, the social psychology of the classroom, the study of teaching and teaching skills, the sociology of the school, childhood socialisation, cognitive processes and exceptional children. It is intended that one appointment will be *specifically* in the area of human development. Appointees will be responsible for organising and teaching courses to both internal and external students and will be expected actively to pursue research in their areas.
20 June 1975.

University of Melbourne

LECTURER (LIMITED TENURE) IN ECONOMICS AND/OR ECONOMETRICS

Applicants for this position should have substantial academic qualifications and proven research ability. Opportunities for advanced teaching and research will be provided, and, as far as possible, these will be arranged to suit the appointee's special interests.

The Department of Economics teaches a wide range of courses, and would welcome applications in any area, but especially in quantitative economics, a field in which it is currently developing new courses. Information on these developments may be obtained from the Professor of Econometrics, Professor R. A. Williams.
30 June 1975.

University of Queensland

J. D. STORY CHAIR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Department of Government

Vacant following the resignation of Professor K. W. Knight. Applicants should have high academic qualifications and appropriate experience.
31 July 1975.

Australian National University

SECOND CHAIR— DEPARTMENT OF NEUROBIOLOGY
Research School of Biological Sciences

The Department (Head: Professor G. A. Horridge) has an active programme of research in the neural basis of behaviour and perception in lower animals mainly insects and crustacea. Preference will be given to applicants in areas of study already followed by the Department, particularly the study of vision in all its aspects in animals with compound eyes, but other fields are not ruled out.

Applicants must have an international reputation in their field and show evidence of the highest research ability. It is envisaged that the headship of the Department may alternate between the appointee and the holder of the other Chair.
30 June 1975.

READER/SENIOR LECTURER AND LECTURER IN HUMAN ECOLOGY/ HUMAN ADAPTABILITY (TWO POSTS)
Human Sciences Program

Appointments will be in the Human Sciences Program, which began in 1973 on an experimental basis, but has now been accepted by the University as a continuing activity.

The Reader Senior Lecturer will be the leader of the Program and will be responsible to the Committee for Human Sciences (Chairman for 1976: Professor F. J. Fenner) for academic matters and to the Head of the Department of Prehistory and Anthropology (Professor J. A. W. Forge) for administrative matters.

Applicants should be persons of broad experience and interests who will be prepared to spend a substantial part of their time on the development and organisation of the undergraduate courses. They should also have experience of using rigorous scientific methods and should aim to engage in research of a broad kind, matching the breadth of the courses offered.

The two persons appointed will be responsible for two full-year units, Human Ecology and Human Adaptability, usually taken in second and third years in either the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty of Science. These units are concerned with human situations and systems rather than any particular academic subjects. As at present taught, Human Ecology focusses upon mankind's different ideas about the environment and upon the diverse ways in which he has interacted with it. Human Adaptability deals with concepts relevant to the interaction between natural and cultural processes as it affects human individuals and societies. The provision of an honours program in 1976 is under consideration.
30 June 1975.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Metrication programme still hangs fire, but Averys' orders hold up

By Tony May

With another record year behind it, the Averys group of weighing, testing and measuring machine makers, has started 1975 with an order book for weighing machines—the main activity—even stronger than that enjoyed at this time last year.

Orders for the year to date are still holding up well and continue to be export-led. All this leads the group's new chairman, Mr R. Hale, to expect further progress in profit growth this year.

Not so happy is the smaller, general products division, which makes cleaning equipment, store fittings, office equipment, etc—where the outstanding load and current order input is not satisfactory.

On prospects for exports, Mr Hale gives warning that the group's competitive position abroad is being eroded by the continual rise in costs. Exports last year went up from £5.79m to £8.42m.

The main fruits of the metrication programme, now in its tenth year, seem still to lie ahead: It is thought unlikely that a big acceleration in the change to metric machinery will be seen before 1976.

The Post Office will be changing over this autumn, and chocolate and sugar confectioners mainly will be converting by the end of 1976. The board hopes that these developments will give a belated boost to the whole metrication programme.

In the international division, much of the metrication work has been completed. However, Australia and New Zealand are now in the process of retail metric conversion, and "slow but steady" progress is reported with the programme in Nigeria, Singapore, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Inflation is a worry to the management as it makes large inroads on the group's liquidity. So far the group has been able to manage from its own resources.

Last year, the highest-paid director received £21,000 (against £17,000).

Laporte expects lower profits

Laporte Industries forecasts that in difficult economic conditions profits this year will not match the £9.5m before tax made in 1974.

In their report the directors say the group is feeling the impact of the downturn in international trade which started in the second half of last year. But Laporte has taken "rapid action" to adjust to the new circumstances, and to ensure that when trading improves it will be able to advance.

The directors think that the international spread of the business gives some protection against recession and that a strong technological base, mainly in specialized chemical areas, will also help.

The accounts show that for the group the value of investments in associated companies and unquoted investments rose from £7.54m to £7.72m.

A set of inflation accounts are also included. These show that based on the value of money in December profits would have been £7.7m (£9.5m actual) compared with £7.6m (£7.3m actual). Sales come out at £66.9m (£60.8m) against £62.5m (£50.1m).

Mr R. Ringwald will become full-time chairman next year. He will succeed to Mr J. Harvey who has already announced his intention to retire. Mr G. Sommerville, joint managing director with Mr Ringwald, will become managing director, chief executive and vice-chairman.

Lyons pulls out of wholesale and cash-carry

To avoid the possibility of a conflict of interest with customers, J. Lyons is selling the cash-and-carry and wholesale delivered trade activities of Patrick Grainger & French to Booker Belmont, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Booker McConnell. The cost to Booker is expected to be around £1.8m in cash. In addition the Danish Bacon Company is buying for an undisclosed sum the four bacon branches of PGF.

The acquisition will increase Booker's UK food wholesale turnover in a full year from £100m to over £125m. PGF and the Booker offshoot Booker Belmont Wholesale are all members of Distributive Marketing Services.

No F. C. finance final after £1.5m swing into loss

After interest charges up from £4.8m to £6.6m and exceptional provisions of £1.75m against £462,000, FC Finance, a subsidiary of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, made a loss of £127,000 before tax last year. In 1973 there was a profit of £1.46m. There is no final payment leaving the total dividend cut from 4.83p to 2.35p.

The company says the exceptional provisions include an extra £1.5m set aside after a review of loans and land held for development and £247,000 as the group's share of extra provisions made by an associate. The new valuations are said to be "fair and realistic".

The shares closed 5p down to 47p on the result.

Wage inflation burden on pension schemes

Inflation has become a "very serious factor" to any final-earnings pension scheme, says Mr S. C. McIntyre, chairman of Pearl Assurance, in his report. "Every general increase in earnings entails a corresponding increase in the liability for accrued benefits in respect of past service, apart from requiring an increased contribution for the current year's service.

"It cannot be expected that employers (and in our case, policyholders) can go on financing 10, 15 or 20 per cent additions to the existing liabilities in addition to contributions for current service", he goes on.

H Samuel soars on scrip and bumper earnings

The ordinary shares of H. Samuel, the jewellers and silversmiths, shot up 12p to 169p ahead of the company's results for last year which showed a growth in pre-tax profits of 14 per cent to a record £7.55m. The shares eventually closed at 172p.

A second interim dividend, up from 5.5p to 9.81p gives shareholders a total payment raised from 6.75p to 11.11p. In addition the company *has declared* a 50 per cent scrip issue.

The main impetus came in the first half when profits grew by around 80 per cent; the final six months saw a return of £5.82m against £5.64m.

£2m loss for Regalian Props

Regalian Properties, the property dealing, development and investment group, has reported a pre-tax loss on developed properties of £1.95m for 1974 compared with a profit of £599,406 for 1973. There is no dividend compared with 1.3p. The loss per ordinary share is 46.93p compared with earnings of 9.18p in 1973.

Interest relating to properties in the course of development was £151,917 compared with £70,047. The net loss was £2.1m against a profit of £408,497.

ANZ Banking

Although profits from banking in the first half year to March 31 were 13 per cent lower than in the same months the year before the Australia & New Zealand Banking Group report that gross income was 35 per cent up. The fall in banking reflects the increases in deposit interest rates paid, and a continuing rise in the proportion of interest bearing deposits, and higher labour costs. But the interim dividend is to be 7.23p against 6.71p, and a bigger net profit for the full year is expected.

Clark & Fenn do well

For the sixth year running both the *profits* and sales of Clark & Fenn (Holdings) have reached new peaks. Indeed pre-tax profits have beaten the board's halftime forecast [illegible] per cent. For 1974 they [illegible] at £977,000, showing a 3[illegible] cent gain from turnover [illegible] per cent at £11.37m. Earn[illegible] share at 8.54p were 2[illegible] cent and the final divid[illegible] *1.92p raises* the total fro[illegible] to 3.09p. This year has [illegible] quite well.

Flying start b[illegible] Burco Dean

Burco Dean has earned taxable profits of £761,[illegible] the first half of Ma[illegible] against £409,000. Turnov[illegible] from £5.73m to £7.78m [illegible] interim dividend goes [illegible] 1.65p to 1.85p. Mr Lesli[illegible] chairman, says all divisi[illegible] trading satisfactorily [illegible] warns shareholders that [illegible] troduction of VAT at [illegible] cent on some products [illegible] evitably affect the order [illegible] He is confident the gro[illegible] show another good year [illegible] gress.

Honda may want [illegible] but plans sales rise

Group sales of Hon[illegible] Japanese motor cycle an[illegible] mobile giant, should ris[illegible] per cent to $1.97 billion [illegible] in the current year, ac[illegible] to projections released [illegible] group yesterday at a [illegible] with United Kingdom [illegible] tional investors.

But it appears that [illegible] might come to the [illegible] markets during the ne[illegible] months. Some $106m of [illegible] new capital requirem[illegible] $414m remains unfund[illegible] plans for raising it have [illegible] been completed.

Court Hotels shar[illegible] suspended

Court Hotels (London[illegible] sidiary of the South [illegible] Group Tollman Holdi[illegible] had its share q[illegible] suspended. There coul[illegible] offer. At the close of [illegible] on Friday the shares [illegible] 32p, a rise of 19p over t[illegible]

Thanks largely to lo[illegible] property 1974 proved [illegible] bad year for Court wit[illegible] tax loss of £358,000.

Stock markets

Strong start to new account

The first day of the new trading account saw a sharp rise in equities, which brought them close to the best levels seen since the recovery in the market. The City's dismay at the disclosure that Britain's inflation rate now exceeds 30 per cent anually seemed to be outweighed by indications that some moderate trade union leaders now want to curb inflation. From the more narrow market viewpoint, yesterday's rise in equities indicates that the major institutions are still buyers at the lower levels of the current trading range. This is the last trading account before the EEC Referendum. The City expects to see the market moving up again after the vote —always assuming that the nation votes "yes".

The *FT* index advanced sharply at mid-morning when it *FT* index was 12 up at 353.8, became clear that the institutions were buyers of major export stocks. At the close, the only a few points below the year's high point.

But turnover was thin, as reflected in a recorded bargains total of only 6,981. The market is still very short of stocks, and jobbers marked prices up quickly when the buyers appeared. Nor were the institutions unwiling to take profit in some stocks. Share prices closed just under their best levels, although London stood upmanfully to Wall Street's opening fall.

Gilts received a tonic in the afternoon from the latest wage rate and earnings figures which showed a much slower rate of increase. News of further cuts in United States prime rates also helped sentiment.

"Shorts" moved ahead, after early firmness. Although buying was not heavy, interest was sufficient to add ½ to ¾ point to most stocks. "Longs" were very quiet and, after dipping ¼ point briefly, ended unchange, ¼ point briefly, ended unchanged, "mediums" gained ¼ point in line with "shorts".

The coupon rate on today's "yearling" issue is expected to be 12¼ per cent or lower.

As so often in recent weeks, it was the overseas earning companies that led the market forward. This week's batch of important trading statements also stimulated interest. Good figures from Shell at the end of last week raised hopes that ICI, Reed Int, and Beecham may bring further comfort this week.

ICI, with first quarter figures due on Thursday, closed 8p up at 270p. Beecham, results tomorrow, added 10p to 292p, and Reed Int, results on Friday showed a gain of 16p to 286p.

Unilever (392p), Bats (325p), Imperial Group (59p) and Distillers (143p) al rose strongly, although they closed belowe their best when Wall below their best when Wall Street cooled investors enthusiasm.

Other exporters to do well included Metal Box (296p), Tube Investments (288p), Racal Electronics (276p), EMI (190p) and BSR (81p). Whisky producers, such as Long John (128p), were firmer, while Reckitt & Colman jumped by 10p to 335p also on export prospects.

Store shares were prominent in spite of City expectations of a *tough clamp down on spending* by the Government. Boots (270p) continued to benefit from last week's trading statement. J. Lyons (165p) strengthened after press comment. Woolworth, whose first quarter figures are due today, were active at 46½p.

Special features included Sealed Motor, 10p up at 45p after 47p. The day brought two bids for Sealed Motor—an offer worth 40p from Adwest had the *board's blessing*, while rival Myson Group offered an effective 46.7p.

Banks gained around 8p, closing off the top. FC Finance slipped to 47p on disclosure of a trading loss. Insurances found ready takers.

Ooil shares remained firm, led by Shell, which put on a further 11p to 331p in continued response to last week's quarterly statement. But gains were small, (BP added 6p) and trading subdued. Among the N Sea stocks, Berry Wiggins (80p) improved after results.

The gold shares sector looked healthier, although gains were restricted to 50p or so. St Helena (£36¼) and Harmony stood out strongly.

Equity turnover on May 16 £95.6m (20,632). *Active stocks* yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph ICI, Boots, GEN, Shell, Bats, EMI, Cadbury new, Thorn "A", BTR, and Grand Metropolitan.

Insurance broking issues were in demand yesterday. Sedgwick Forbes Holdings, whose results, expected soon, are likely to show a further rise in profits, put on 10p *to* 235p.

Shares in Ever Ready (Holdings) were bought yesterday ahead of the profits statement, expected on Friday. While a downturn in profit is expected, the market thinks that the shares are too low.

Latest dividends

All dividends in new pence or appropriate currencies

Company (and par values)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Aust & NZ Bank (£1) Int	7.23	6.71	8/7	—	13.57
Berry Wiggins (25p) Fin	1.88	1.82	27/6	2.92	2.82
Booth (Int) (25p) Fin	2.06	3.0	31/7	4.08	5.0
Bond Pulp (25p) Fin	2.37	2.11	—	5.55	4.93
Burco Dean (25p) Int	1.85	1.65	7/8	—	4.23
Clark & Fenn (25p) Fin	1.92	1.92	18/7	3.09	2.76
F. C. Finance (25p) Fin	Nil	2.58	—	2.35	4.83
Imp Cold Storage Fin	9*	7*	—	12*	10*
Midland Inds (5p) Int	0.62	0.5	7/7	—	1.12
Old Swan Hotel (10p) Fin	0.77	0.29	—	1.21	0.72
Outwich Inv (25p) Fin	1.92	1.49	25/6	2.66	2.20
Padang Senang (10p)	0.77	1.00	16/6	0.77	1.00
Regalian Props (25p) Fin	Nil	1.30	—	Nil	2.17
H. Samuel (25p) Int	9.81	5.5	26/6	11.11	6.75
H. C. Slingsby (25p) Fin	2.55	2.22	7/7	3.42	3.09
Tricentrol (25p) Fin	Nil	1.55	—	1.6	3.19

* Cents a share.

Issues & Loans

Berwick placing will hoist payout

For only £10,000, Berwick Timpo, the toymakers, have bought Park Toys which makes wooden toys. Park will need about £150,000 of new working capital in the next 18 months. This is to be raised by a placing of 500,000 Berwick Timpo shares with institutions at 30p a share.

The main point for Berwick Timpo's shareholders is the boost this will give this year's dividends. A total of 3.75p gross will be allowed by the Treasury, in view of the placing. This is a rise of 66¼ per cent over total dividends for 1974.

Park Toys trading experience has been poor because management and resources have been overstretched.

Rights by Gordon Johnson-Stephens

Poultry equipment makers, Gordon Johnson-Stephens (Holdings) is raising about £300,000 by a one-for-two rights issue. This will be underwritten, and shares will be provisionally allotted credited at 10p paid by a capitalization of reserves, subject to a call payable on acceptance which will not be less than 15p a share.

Mgn Crucible result

Acceptances of Morgan Crucible's rights issue have been received on 92.9 per cent of the 8.43m ordinary shares. These were offered at 60p a share.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Influence of LME in establishing metal prices throughout world

a Special Correspondent

The London Metal Exchange [...]s been called many things by [ma]ny people, but few deny its [inf]luence in helping to establish [wo]rld metal prices. One might [cal]l it a disproportionate influ[enc]e, since the United Kingdom [is] by no means the world's [pre]minent consumer of non-[fer]rous metals.

[A] trade journal the other day [quo]ted an American dealer as [dis]missing this as an accident of [geo]graphy, linked to the fact [tha]t the sun rises in the east [and] sets in the west. Many were [the] occasions, he said, when he [wo]ke in the morning with only [two] questions in mind: "What [ar]e the opening prices of the [LM]E?" and "How do I get [the] girl out of my hotel bed[roo]m?"

[I]t is an amusing but not a [ver]y convincing explanation. [Wh]y, for instance, does the rest [of t]he world look to Chicago for [gra]in prices? A better answer [wou]ld be that, however these [maj]or markets became estab[lish]ed in the past, they are now [self-]perpetuating. The fact that [they] attract a high volume of [busi]ness means that, at least in [theo]ry, their prices reflect the [wide]st spread of interests and [that] they are less open to [man]ipulation than smaller [mar]kets. This in turn attracts [addi]tional business.

[M]r Philip Jevons, managing [dire]ctor of Rudolf Wolff and [Com]pany made the further [poin]t at a commodities confer[ence] in Fontainbleau on Friday [that] the LME is a thoroughly [inter]national market. His own [com]pany "possibly the biggest [trad]ers on the exchange"—is [own]ed by Noranda Mines [of C]anada.

[Pr]oducers and consuming [orga]nizations in Zambia, Japan, [the] United Kingdom, Belgium, [Aust]ralia, France, the United [Stat]es, West Germany and else[wher]e have substantial share[hold]ers in the LME's other [ring] members.

[M]oreover, said Mr Jevons, it [is n]ot the members who make [the] price, but the orders that [com]e in from all over the [worl]d.

[O]n one particular day last [year] his own company handled [orde]rs from its international [clien]tele amounting to over [...]00 tons of copper. What ["con]stantly amazed" him was [that] copper producers, and [mem]bers of the producer [orga]nization CIPEC in particu[lar, d]id not play a greater role [in he]lping to create the prices, [by u]sing the LME's futures [facili]ties.

This might be interpreted as special pleading, from someone with a direct interest in seeing even activity on the exchange. A similar argument was heard at the major sugar conference in London in March, when the chairman of the New York sugar market said that long-term deals between nations, based on average prices in London or New York, were to be decried.

Such contracts made use of the markets function of setting prices, but because the sugar was not traded in those centres, there was a danger (remote, one suspects) of the prices being established by an increasingly small and unrepresentative level of business. The fact that the speaker and his organization would benefit from the greater use of the markets did not make this argument untrue, it was said.

Mr Jevons's case was slightly different. He made it clear to his French audience that he had little faith in the efforts of commodity producers to establish cartels. "These programmes are basically effective in times of short supply", he said. "In times of over-supply, one finds that one of the weaker brethren in the cartel might be letting something out through the back door."

The laws of supply and demand, he went on to claim, would always prevail. There were always two prices for a commodity: the minimum that the producer was prepared to sell for, and the maximum the consumer was prepared to pay. "All sorts of artificial means can be used to adjust prices, but they have never been really successful."

Stockpiling and production [...] not guaranteed to raise market prices, but meanwhile deprived the producers of much-needed foreign currency.

"In very simple terms, a producing nation is giving its irreplacable natural resources away at unnaturally low prices due to the current economic depression", he said. It can replace its natural resources by buying futures on the London Metal Exchange. By purchasing forward . . . one is stockpiling without paying physically for the material. At the same time, vital foreign exchange is obtained from the physical sales.

"The mere fact that purchases of this nature were made on the exchange would, in our belief, undoubtedly increase prices. At least the producing nations would be having a major say in the construction of the price

Wall Street

New York, May 19.—Weakness continuing from late last week carried the New York Stock Exchange lower for the third conse[cutive session]. At 1 p.m. today, [the] Dow Jones Industrial Average was 8.29 points lower at 829.32.

"Blue Chips" experienced most of the selling, in what analysts regarded as a "downward technical correction" of past gains.

[Fo]reign [Ex]change

[The] dollar eased slightly in thin [tradin]g yesterday, with most [Europ]ean centres closed for Whit [Mond]ay. The pound continued to [enjo]y its recent stability.

[The] continuing round of United [States] bank prime rate cuts—to [7.25 p]er cent from 7.5 per cent—[and] easier Eurodollar rates [depres]sed the United States cur[rency].

[The] pound closed against the [dollar] at \$2.3035, up 10 points. [Sterl]ing drew strength from [news t]hat United Kingdom wage [inflatio]n fell in April compared [with] March, although this was [overshado]wed by the record rise in [the ret]ail price index for April [announ]ced on Friday, dealers [said].

The recent swift decline in the pound's "effective rate" has apparently stopped at about 25 per cent (where it closed yesterday). It was 24.9 on Friday.

French franc trading was unsettled.

Gold rose by \$2.25 an ounce, to \$168.25.

Discount market

Some discount houses appeared a little disconcerted by the size of the shortage that eventually emerged yesterday.

Rates firmed gently from the opening 8¾ per cent to reach 9 per cent by midday. Then the rise steepened, reaching 9½ per cent and even 10 per cent in places.

This was matched by moderate overnight borrowing from the Bank of England at MLR by two or three houses after two tranches of bill purchases had proved insufficient to take the shortage out completely. The size of the help was described as "exceptionally large" in total.

[Spo]t Position [of S]terling

	Market rates (day's range) May 19	Market rates (close) May 19
	\$2.3005-3040	\$2.3030-3040
	\$2.3750-3810	\$2.3785-3800
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	55.95-56.45e	55.95-56.25e
	129.50-129.00p	128.55-80p
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	11.35-40k	11.35-37k
	9.32-36f	[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]
	669-73y	[illegible]
	38.20-60sch	38.30-40sch
	[illegible]	[illegible]

[Effective exchange rate compared to Washington agreement] depreciation since Dec 21, 1971 [was 2]5.1 per cent.

[Forw]ard Levels

[illegible]

[Gol]d

[Gold fix]ed: am, \$166¾ (an ounce); pm, \$167¾ [...]

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate [...]% (Last changed [...])

Clearing Banks Base Rate 9½%

Discount Mkt Loans %

Overnight: Open [...] Close [...]

Week Fixed: [...]

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) / Trades (Dis%)

[illegible]

Local Authority Bonds

[illegible]

Interbank Market (%)

[illegible]

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

[illegible]

Finance House Base Rate 12%

Recent Issues

	Closing price
Colne Val Wtr 9% Rd Pf (+ b)	£11¼
Doornfontein Gold (R2½)	[illegible]
Finance For Ind 13% [illegible]	[illegible]
Gestetner 10% Cnv (£100a)	[illegible] prem
GLC 12½% 1982 (£97)	[illegible]
Kellock 10p Cnv Units	[illegible]
Mid Southern Wtr 10% 1980 (+)	[illegible]
Nth Atlntic Secs 7¾% Cnv (£100)	[illegible] prem
Rank Org (140b)	[illegible]
Slough Ests 10% Cnv (100)	[illegible]
Southend 12½% 1981 [illegible]	[illegible]
Warwickshire 12½% 1980 [illegible]	[illegible]
Yorks Chem 12½% Cnv (£100)	[illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renunc.	
Ass Biscuit (33)	June 6	[illegible]
Aurora Hldgs (10)	June 16	11
Barratt Dev (60)	May 23	[illegible]
Cadbury Sch (35)		10 prem+1½
Croda Int (16)	May 30	[illegible]
Delta Metal (35)	June 6	[illegible]
Fothergill and H. (20)	May 23	[illegible]
Guardian Royal (130)	May 22	[illegible]
GKN (175)	June 20	[illegible]
Linfood Hldgs (125)		[illegible] prem
Mambre and Gart (100)		32 prem+2
Martin Black (60)	June 6	[illegible]
Morgan Cruc (60)	June 13	[illegible]
Richards and Wall (47½)		[illegible] prem
Rolls-R Motors (30)	May 27	[illegible]
Simon Eng (95)		[illegible] prem
Spirax-Sarco (77)	June 6	[illegible]
Steetley (80)	May 22	[illegible]
Tarmac (125)		[illegible] prem
W. Selection (23)	June 9	[illegible] prem

Issued price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. ‡ Issued by tender. † Nil paid. a £45 paid. b £10 paid. [illegible] £40 paid.

[B]ank Base Rates

[Bar]clays Bank	9½%
[C.] Hoare & Co	*9½%
[Lloy]ds Bank	9½%
[Mid]land Bank	9½%
[Nat] Westminster	9½%
[Shen]ley Trust	11½%
[20th] Century Bank	11½%
[Will]iams & Glyn's	9½%

[* 7 da]y deposits on sums of [£1]0,000 and under, 6¼%, [up] to £25,000, 6½%, over [£2]5,000 7¼%.

Commodities

COPPER.—[illegible]

[illegible]

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorised Unit Trusts

[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

[illegible]

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

STRAIGHTS	Bid	Offer
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Scanraff 8½ 1988	[illegible]	[illegible]
Shell 7½ 1987	[illegible]	[illegible]
Singer 11 1977	101½	102½
Skandinaviska 10½ 1981	103½	104½
Slough 8 1988	65	67
South Africa 8 1987	83	84
Standard Oil 8½ 1980	101½	102½
Standard Oil 8½ 1988	98	99
Standard Oil 8¾ 1988	99	100
Sybron 8 1987	90½	91½
Tenneco 7¾ 1987	85½	85½
Textron 7¾ 1987	83½	84½
Transocean Gulf 7½ 1987	91	93
Transocean Gulf 7 1980	96½	98
Union Oil 7½ 1987	90	91

DM BONDS / CONVERTIBLES	Bid	Offer
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
J. P. Morgan 4¼ 1987	126	128
Nabisco 5½ 1988	[illegible]	[illegible]
Owens Illinois 4½ 1987	87	[illegible]
J. C. Penney 4½ 1987	88	[illegible]
Revlon 4½ 1987	103	105
Rank Org 4½ 1995	43	45
Sperry Rand 4¼ 1988	[illegible]	101
Squibb 4¼ 1987	87	[illegible]
Texaco 4½ 1988	71	[illegible]
Union Carbide 4¾ 1982	114	115
Warner Lambert 4½ 1987	96	98
Xerox Corp 5 1988	75	77

DM = Deutschmark issue.

Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities, London.

Stock Exchange Prices

Buyers come back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 19. Dealings End, May 30. § Contango Day, June 2. Settlement Day, June 10.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

FOREIGN STOCKS

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

C — E

F — H

I — L

M — N

O — S

T — Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

Report May 19 1975 Chancery Division

Champagne: long delay no bar to injunction

ulmer Ltd and Another v
inger SA and Others
Mr Justice Whitford
ent delivered May 13]

Lordship ruled that the Champagne producers were to restrain the use of the "Champagne" otherwise connexion with wine pro- in the Champagne district ce and said that he would n injunction in terms to rmined at a later date.

avid Hirst, QC, Mr William and Mr Simon Thorley for intiffs, H. P. Bulmer Ltd owerings Ltd; Mr A. C. , QC, and Mr Julian Jeffs, J. Bollinger SA and Cham- anson Père et Fils, sued behalf and on behalf of ons who produce wine in mpagne district of France p such wine to England ies.

LORDSHIP said that the s' action failed and that endants were entitled to lief on their counterclaim. and Showerings manu- cider and perry from nd pears respectively. In lmers were marketing a g cider and what was d as a "Champagne Possibly as early as 1901 d started using the name agne Cider". From 906 they had marketed a e described as Champagne nder the brand name ne". There had been no any perry described as agne Perry" since the

a visit to France in the Mr H. P. Bulmer, Bul- d applied what he had f the methods and tech- producing Champagne to luction of their "Cham- erry" and "Champagne at least to the extent ing the carbon dioxide to ced by a secondary fer- n in the bottles. That was changed in 1960, for of a bulk fermentation By 1970 sales of ne", a relatively small their business, had risen three million bottles a rings started as a business some 300 years fter experiments between d 1950 they introduced g cider and sparkling scribed as "naturally con- ", ie, with the carbon induced by secondary ation, which however took a tank. By 1953 they centrated on a naturally ced perry, which under e of "Baby Cham" had ccessfully marketed ever ales being eight million a year. Expenditure on ng averaged £580,000 a

70 the main defendants, and Lanson, brought a tative action against Gold- l to restrain the use of l "Champagne" in con- with any other beverage than wine produced in the Champagne district of France, but Goldwell submitted to judgment.

Bulmers and Showerings, seeing in the defendants' claim a potential threat to their continued use of "Champagne Perry" and "Champagne Cider", brought an action to establish their right to continue using the word "Champagne" in connexion with products. They contended that "Champagne Cider" and "Champagne Perry" did not mean a beverage containing or made from wine produced in the Champagne district of France, relying on their long and extensive user of the expressions—a use recognized in governmental orders and regulations which had not led to any prosecution under the Merchandise Marks Acts or the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968. They said that the defendants were debarred from saying that such user was wrongful, by reason of their delay, or alternatively by acquiescence in that the defendants had known of the plaintiffs' use of the expressions for many years and had allowed the plaintiffs to build up a goodwill in the words and to incur considerable expense, eg, advertising costs, and that if prevented from using those expressions their interests would be damaged.

The defendants challenged those assertions and disputed the plaintiffs' right to the declarations sought, contending that in the United Kingdom "Champagne" meant the naturally sparkling wine produced in the Champagne district of France. They said that the use of the word in connexion with a beverage was likely to lead to the belief that such beverage was or resembled or was a substitute for or was in some way connected with Champagne, and that applied equally to "Pomagne" and "Baby Cham"; that the use of such expressions would damage the defendants' goodwill in the word "Champagne"; that they were false trade descriptions under the Trade Descriptions Act 1968; and contraventions of the European Community law. By their counterclaim they sought injunctions to restrain the use of the word "Champagne" in any way likely to lead to confusion or deception.

His Lordship referred to the law of passing off as stated in *Burberrys v J. C. Cording & Co Ltd* ((1909) 26 RPC 693), *A. G. Spalding & Bros v A. W. Gamage Ltd* ((1915) 32 RPC 273), and *Singer Manufacturing Co v Loog* ((1882) 8 App Cas 15), and concluded that where the basis of complaint was the use of a word that word must be shown to be distinctive of the plaintiff's goods, that its use involved a misrepresentation likely to cause confusion or deception, and that it was calculated to cause injury to the complainant's trade or business. No actual damage needed to be proved, the likelihood of damage sufficed.

Mr Justice Danckwerts in *J. Bollinger SA v Costa Brava Wine Co Ltd* ([1960] RPC 16 and [1961] RPC 116) (the Spanish Champagne case) and Mr Justice Cross in *Vine Products Ltd v McKenzie & Co Ltd* ([1969] RPC 1) (the Spanish Sherry case), though they referred to unfair competition, appeared to have reached their decisions on the classic basis of deception coupled with some form of damage.

His Lordship then reviewed the facts in detail, concluding that while Bulmer's early advertising was not likely to lead to deception, their postwar advertising was dangerous because it fostered the idea that Champagne and Pomagne had the same qualities and could be used as substitutes. The plaintiffs had been deliberately striving to produce a close association with Champagne, which though it might not have amounted to fraud, nevertheless contained a potentiality for confusion and deception.

It had to be remembered that drinks of that kind were bought by almost all sections of society; the young coming to them for the first time and the old, who were possibly more aware of the types of expression used to distinguish one beverage from another. Such drinks might be drunk by those with a lot of money or with little, by the knowledgeable and those with only a half knowledge, or in substance with no knowledge at all. There must be many people who only knew of "Champagne" as a party drink of high prestige with no idea of how it was made or where it came from. That prestige had, of course, been built up by the defendants or their predecessors over years of patient labour.

The plaintiffs had been at pains to put their products forward as "wines", with a constant reference to their sparkling nature. Bulmers' striving for a French association reached its climax in an offer of Champagne glasses from which to drink their product. Their advertising had succeeded to a point where a substantial portion of the public had been or were likely to be misled. Both plaintiffs clearly intended to identify their respective products as closely as possible with Champagne. In his Lordship's judgment they had succeeded all too well, and damage ought to be inferred. Their advertising amounted to a longstanding encouragement to purchase their products as cheaper "Champagne", whereas their products were plainly different so that confusion was likely to damage the reputation of Champagne.

The necessary elements of reputation and likelihood of deception having been established, the defendants were entitled to relief unless, owing to their delay or acquiescence, relief should not be granted. His Lordship would presume, for present purposes that the plaintiffs could show knowledge extending back at least to 1930 in the case of Bulmers and to 1953 in the case of Showerings and possibly even for 60 years.

Could 60 years' delay alone bar relief by way of an injunction? The wrong was a continuing one, and, assuming the use was wrongful, ought the plaintiffs to be allowed to continue it just because the defendants had done nothing for, say, 60 years? The right was a legal right, while the remedy was equitable.

On the authorities, the length of the delay and the nature of the acts done in the interval by either party had to be considered.

In the Spanish Sherry case Mr Justice Cross had refused an injunction, on the ground of delay, considering it unjust when the use of the word must have been common knowledge in the sherry land.

His Lordship doubted whether Mr Justice Upjohn in the Arrow shirt case ([1969] RPC 1), was correct in deciding that it was open to the court to refuse relief merely on the ground of inordinate delay. From that it might follow that mere delay would be sufficient, but one had to consider the period of delay and all the other circumstances. Having regard to the plaintiffs' activities his Lordship concluded that they were not entitled to succeed on the ground of delay alone.

As to acquiescence, it was accepted that such a defence involved not only knowledge but encouragement to expenditure. The plaintiffs had never attempted to show that the use of "Champagne Cider" and "Champagne Perry" was common knowledge in the Champagne district. There were some 140 companies and a large number of small growers, of whom about 100 sold Champagne on the English market.

The two main defendants clearly had knowledge at least by the mid-1950s. One grower gave evidence that he had not heard the expressions till just before the hearing, some 3½ years after the defence had been put in. That was because the defence was put in on his behalf by the Committee Interprofessionel du Vin de Champagne (CIVC), an organization for the protection of Champagne to which all growers had to belong. It would be absurd to conclude that individual growers could escape the consequences of CIVC's knowledge. His Lordship saw no reason why CIVC should have been expected to leap into action immediately. In the 1960s they hoped to secure a change in labelling regulations; by 1968, however, the proposed change had been rejected. In the circumstances there was no unreasonable delay, in the sense of inordinate delay.

In the Sherry case Mr Justice Cross was dealing with the use of expressions which he had found had been going on for upwards of 100 years, and was common knowledge at all material times. It was therefore unjust to deprive the defendants of the use of the expression "British Sherry". In this case, until the late 1950s, there was no proof that the defendants had any real knowledge of the likelihood of confusion. Thereafter attempts were made to stop the abuses, by changing the regulations and by proceedings against Goldwall. In all the circumstances it would not be right to refuse relief, on the grounds of delay or acquiescence.

Nothing however would prevent Bulmers from continuing to sell their products under the name "Pomagne" or to use their equipment on which they had spent money, or would prevent Showerings from similarly selling under the name "Baby Cham".

As to the Trade Descriptions Act, his Lordship said that he was bound by the Spanish Champagne case ([1960] RPC 33), where Mr Justice Danckwerts held that the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, did not give any right to an injunction in a civil action. No distinction could be drawn between the two Acts.

On the question of European Community law, his Lordship referred to *H. P. Bulmer Ltd v J. Bollinger SA* ([1974] 3 WLR 202), where a reference to the European Court was refused at that stage. At the hearing the defendants submitted that the Court of Appeal had plainly indicated that, to avoid pressure on the European Court, if the point was not really difficult it might better be determined by an English judge, and thus save expense, and that the principles to be applied were those which would be followed in the European Court. Thus the relevant EEC regulation 817 of 1970 should be interpreted with a view to carrying out the purpose and intent and not strictly according to the language. Regulation 817 provided that the word "Champagne" could only be used for wine from the Champagne district. The plaintiffs contended that the regulation dealt only with wine made from grape juice and could not be intended to prohibit use of the word in connexion with cider or perry. The defendants contended that that was just such a narrow approach as the Court of Appeal said should not be adopted.

After reference to two German cases, his Lordship said his impression was that the defendants had a strong case, but that he did not propose to decide the matter for two reasons: (1) it was unnecessary, in view of the proposed injunction; (2) although the point fell in a narrow compass and did not appear to be of any undue difficulty, it might well arise in a number of national jurisdictions, where different conclusions might be reached by different national tribunals. It might have been preferable to avoid that by a reference, if such had been necessary.

The action would accordingly be dismissed, and the counterclaim succeeded.

Solicitors: Ashurst, Morris Crisp & Co; Monier-Williams & Keeling.

of Appeal

) rigid interpretation mmigration rules

v Secretary of State for Department, ex parte

Lord Denning, Master of , Lord Justice Browne and stice Geoffrey Lane
nt delivered May 16]

ourt of Appeal, reviewing irst time a decision of an ion appeal tribunal under igration Act, 1971, held tribunal had erred in law ng that where notice of ainst a Home Office deci- a student must leave the as lodged a few days out there were no "special nces" making it just and llow the appeal to pro- hearing.

ordships, having granted Miss Rashila Pratapral student from Tanzania, Harrow, to apply for certiorari and mandamus, he tribunal's determina- preliminary issue on the ppeal and made an order mus directed to the tri- allow the substantive proceed under rule 11(4) migration Appeal (Proce- les 1972. The Queen's isional Court had refused ation for leave made ex her behalf in April.

S. Nathan for Miss Mr Harry Woolf for the

ASTER OF THE ROLLS Miss Mehta came to this rom Tanzania in 1970, was 18. She had an tificate to come as a or 12 months and she a college to do her O e was given a short ex- a further extension was ut she succeeded on her a technical point. The ice appealed to the tri- ich decided in Novem- that no extension be that she would have to ot it was intimated to a further application sympathetically received. licitors thereupon wrote letters on November 12 the Home Office asking ension, pointing out that n enrolled student at a college, in receipt of a llowance from Tanzania, paid her tuition fees.

e mistake those letters rlooked in the Home nd on December 4 a rt letter was written say- he had no claim to re- he United Kingdom and her to leave within 14

citors were flabbergasted ey had not received any neir letters; they wrote . The Home Office then January 2, 1974, just wish to apologize for of December 4 sent to h a clerical error. The of November 27 has sed. . . ."

he Immigration Appeal) Rules Miss Mehta had om January 2 in which Her solicitors unfor- d not at once lodge an on her behalf but wrote, reasonably, on January g the Home Office that een told that a further would be sympathetic- ed. The letter finished: ze that having made a his cannot be revoked ve would probably have n appeal on behalf of However, in case there ortunity for reconsider- this point we would to do so".

ordship would have at it would have been onable to wait for a at letter before lodging ; but no reply was re- hin the 14 days. So on the solicitors did lodge ; and they were then t was out of time. They the adjudicator asking hould not be barred by that was taken as a y point.

ument on her behalf was case should be heard notwithstanding that she was a few days out of time having regard to the terms of rule 11(4) which provided that "The appellate authority"—where an appeal was out of time—"shall not be required to dismiss the appeal but may allow it to proceed if the authority is of the opinion that, by reason of special circumstances, it is just and right so to do."

The adjudicator, however, refused to apply the rule in Miss Mehta's favour. He said: "I do not think I can take account of whatever merits there may be in the substantive appeal. I think that I should be concerned only with any special circumstances that prevented the appellant or her representative from giving notice of appeal within the permitted time. No such circumstances . . . exist in this case. . . ."

Miss Mehta appealed to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, which entirely agreed with the adjudicator's conclusions and decision. They said that they had no doubt that the tribunal's task was to come to a decision on the preliminary issue only, without regard to the substance, or merits of the appeal. So her legal advisers' only recourse was by certiorari to the Divisional Court. Leave was refused; but Mr Nathan had renewed his application to their Lordships, who had now heard both sides.

His Lordship considered that the adjudicator and the tribunal had erred in point of law. They had misinterpreted rule 11(4). The adjudicator had limited himself to considering whether there were circumstances preventing giving a notice of appeal. He said that the solicitors' mistake could not be prayed in aid by Miss Mehta, accepting the Home Office submission that such a mistake could not amount to "special circumstances" within rule 11.

That his Lordship could not accept. In their Lordships' court daily and weekly it was the practice not to let a party suffer because his solicitor had made a mistake of a day or two. As far back as *Gatti v Shoosmith* ([1939] Ch 841) the court had made it clear that a party should not be thrown out irrevocably because his solicitor had made a mistake of a few days. It would be even harder in a case like the present where a remedy in damages against solicitors would be of no avail because the question was whether or not Miss Mehta would be allowed to stay in this country. She should not be prejudiced by what was a most understandable mistake by solicitors who wrote a reasonable letter inviting the Home Office to reconsider their decision—which the Home Office did not answer for three or four weeks. They had indeed been lulled into the position in which they found themselves. That seemed to be a "special circumstance".

His Lordship also thought the tribunal's statement about not going into the merits was too wide. Though he would not say that the merits were to be gone into in every case, his Lordship would not like to say categorically that no regard must ever be had to them.

The discretion in the tribunal to do what was just and right should be liberally interpreted so that a person was not shut out on technical grounds for a delay of a day or two in lodging an appeal. Though his Lordship would agree with Mr Woolf that the courts did not want to encourage too many applications for certiorari in matters of this kind, it was the function of the court, where points of law of general application were raised, to give guidance to the tribunals. The point raised in the present case fell into that category. The tribunal took too strict and, indeed, an erroneous view of the wording of the rule. The appeal should be allowed.

Lord Justice Browne delivered a concurring judgment, and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane agreed.

Solicitors: Michael Freeman & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Privy Council

Antigua newspaper laws not unconstitutional

Attorney General and Another v Antigua Times Ltd
Before Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and Sir Thaddeus McCarthy

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held that two Acts of the Antigua legislature, the Newspapers Registration (Amendment) Act, 1971, and the Newspaper Surety Ordinance (Amendment) Act, 1971, which provided respectively that no person should publish a newspaper unless he has obtained a licence from the Cabinet and paid a licence fee of $600 every year and that no person should publish a newspaper unless he has deposited a sum of $10,000 (or effected a sufficient insurance policy) against liability for libel, were not repugnant to section 10 (1) of the Antigua Constitution Order, 1967, which declares that no person should be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, including freedom to impart ideas and information without interference.

The financial burden placed upon the *Antigua Times*, which began publication in 1970, was such that it resulted in effectively closing it down in 1971.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by the Attorney General and the Minister of Home Affairs, Antigua, from a judgment of the West Indies Associated State Supreme Court (Antigua) in 1974 dismissing an appeal against a judgment of the High Court of Antigua granting declarations to the Antigua Times Ltd that the two Acts in question were ultra vires the powers of the Antiguan legislature and were consequently void.

Sir Lionel Luckhoo, QC, Mr Harvey da Costa, QC, and Mr Julian Priest (all of the Antigua Bar) for the Government of Antigua; Mr J. G. Le Quesne, QC, and Mr George Newman, and Mr Rowan Henry, QC, and Mr Cosmos Phillips, QC (both of the Antigua Bar), for the Antigua Times.

LORD FRASER said that the newspaper contended that the provision of the Newspapers Registration (Amendment) Act relating to the annual licence was unconstitutional, first, because it subjected the right to publish to the grant of a licence at the discretion of the Cabinet, and, secondly, because it made the right to publish subject to the annual payment of $600. It was provided in section 10 (2) of the Constitution that nothing done under the authority of any law should be held to be in contravention of the Constitution to the extent that the law was reasonably required (1) in the interests of defence, etc, or (2) for the purpose of protecting the reputations, rights and freedoms of others persons.

The only part of the Act which affected the Newspaper was the requirement to pay the annual fee for the licence. The imposition of the licence fee to be paid annually was a tax and as such it did not infringe the Constitution if reasonably required to raise revenue for defence or the other purposes stated in section 10 (2). The presumption that the Act was reasonably required had not been rebutted, and their Lordships did not regard the amount of the fee as manifestly excessive and of such a character as to lead to the conclusion that it was not enacted to raise revenue but for some other purpose.

The Newspaper Surety Ordinance (Amendment) Act added a requirement to the already existing law of a deposit of $10,000 or the provision of sufficient security against liability for libel. It could be argued that any expenditure required by law from those responsible for the publication of a newspaper was a hindrance to its freedom of expression in that such expenditure must reduce the resources of the newspaper. The question was whether the law was reasonably required for the purpose of protecting the reputations and rights of others. If it was, then nothing in it or done under its authority was to be treated as a contravention of the Constitution.

The mere right of action for libel did not give adequate protection to the injured person's reputation. Damages were awarded to a libelled person to compensate for the injury suffered and unless there was a reasonable prospect of obtaining the damages awarded the injured person might be deterred from instituting proceedings. The fact that the deposit would be used to satisfy a judgment for libel was an inducement to the publishers of a newspaper to take care not to libel the reputation of others.

In their Lordships' opinion both Acts were covered by section 10 (2) of the Constitution and could not be treated as contravening the Constitution.

The appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Druces & Attlee; Wilson Freeman.

also on page 20

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APPOINTMENTS VACANT ALSO ON PAGE 20

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A selection of 2, 3 or 4 bedroom flats and maisonettes recently completed and located, overlooking a large garden square, with access to. In South Kensington. Large recepts. fitted kits. 2 bathrooms (1 en suite) in each flat, indep. C.H., some with balconies or roof terraces. Low outgoings. 150 years lease.

Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 26

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY
£2,500 PLUS

Standard Life Assurance have an attractive opening for a Secretary to one of their senior executives. Preferably aged 25-35 she will be involved in all aspects of secretarial work and should have good shorthand and typing speeds. Salary will be dependent on age and benefits include L.V.s, 3 weeks' holidays and excellent working conditions in modern offices close to Chancery Lane underground.

Write or phone
MR. J. L. HUNT,
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO. LTD.,
HOLBORN HALL,
100 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.
Tel. 01-242 9700.

PA/SECRETARY HOUNSLOW
£2,500 pa + £1.25 LV per week

International Division of worldwide Management Consultancy firm requires competent PA/Secretary for Director who travels considerably. She should be 25+ with excellent skills and able to run the office in the Director's absence. Pleasant modern offices and excellent conditions. Holidays honoured (2 weeks paid holiday this year)

For further details, please telephone Mrs Platt on 01-255 6060

SENIOR SECRETARY FOR SCHOOL

A vacancy will occur shortly for post of Senior Secretary in a small London Co-ed School.

The work is demanding and satisfying. Essential qualifications being an interest in people, quickness and accuracy of mind, good typing, an ability to cope with simple accounts.

Generous holidays. Pay, £2,000 + per annum, according to age and experience. When school is enlarged in near future, scope of job and salary will increase correspondingly.

Write Box 2057 M, The Times

SECRETARY IN INTERNATIONAL BANKING

Berkeley Sq. To £2,800

Well known American International bank seeks an efficient and hard working Secretary to work with 2 Marketing Executives. These are the people who obtain major financial business for the bank. So presentation must be of the highest quality. For further details call Mike Cripps 581 8352.
CRIPPS SEARS & ASSOCS

P.A. AND SECRETARIES AT GRADUATE GIRLS

We have a wide variety of interesting jobs in all areas of the commercial and non-commercial fields.

If you are more than just a shorthand-typist and are looking for more than just a job we can certainly help to fill the bill, and make your working day really rewarding.

Please ring Gilly Stott, 01-584 5615.

SHORTHAND TYPIST

required to assist General Manager's P.A. with varied and interesting work for leading Hospital Charity. Pleasant offices close to Temple Station and easy walking distance from Charing Cross, Blackfriars and Holborn.

Preferred age 40-50, good typing and shorthand ability (electric typewriter). Salary not less than £2,062, plus luncheon vouchers, 4 weeks holiday, flexible working hours.

Apply to Miss L. Green, Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, Rowell House, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.
Tel. 353 9451

WANT A SECURE TEMP JOB?

We have a long-term temporary booking for a publishing company in W.1. Candidate must have good speeds to match good appearance and be able to start work immediately.

Please ring Jos Berger on 01-584 5615 today.
GRADUATE GIRLS.
Temporary Department.

"GO INTERNATIONAL"

THE JOB. TWO VERY BUSY DIRECTORS OF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY, S.W.1. NEED SUPER SEC./P.A. VERY VARIED DUTIES WITH OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRESS. £2,500 NEG.

THE GIRL. 20-35. GOOD SKILLS. EXCELLENT TELEPHONE MANNER. SPANISH, FRENCH USEFUL. ADAPTABLE AND ABLE TO WORK ON OWN INITIATIVE. CALL CHRISTINE WATSON. 836 4757.

M & J PERSONNEL

BEAUTY ORGANISATION

needs a first class level-headed PA, SECRETARY

to work with their Sales Director. Will be arranging and attending conferences, lunches etc. Must be able to take responsibility and make decisions confidently.

£2,500 P.A.
PATHFINDERS
629 3132

A MATTER OF DISPLAY

or then again exhibitions. We're looking for a Secretary with a certain flair in this direction to assist a Managing Director. He's off out and about a lot, is quiet, charming, and will pay around the £2,500 mark.

ACORN
409 2908
10 Maddox St., W.1.

THE WORLD OF CRUISES NEEDS YOU!

The general manager of this leading world cruise line wants you—a secretary with initiative. Where else could you get modern offices, lots of responsibility, flexible time and 80% discount on cruises. Salary up to £2,400. Call Eileen Anderson, 734 0911.

DRAKE PERSONNEL
225 Regent Street, W.1

FACE UP TO SPRING

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

SECRETARIAL

Top Executives of West End Fashion Group require

FIRST-CLASS SECRETARY

Excellent Salary ... Pension Scheme

BOX WEC

GAMES DESIGNERS & MANUFACTURERS

SECRETARY

CALLING, CALLING!

JOAN FERNIE PERSONNEL

SUPERGIRL

AUDIO SECRETARY

ADVERTISING AGENCY

2ND—27TH INCLUSIVE LIVELY AND INTELLIGENT

SENIOR P.A. ROLE £2,400

ARABIC/ENGLISH SECRETARY

WRITER/POLITICIAN

PUBLISHING COMPANY, W.1.

PENTHOUSE MAISONETTE Thornhill Crescent, N.1.

EALING, W.5

CORNWALL GARDENS S.W.7.

SUPER SUSSEX VILLAGE HOME

GUILDSTEAD COURT YELSTED SITTINGBOURNE, KENT

PARLIAMENT HILL N.W.3

CHARTRES (28) FRANCE

Bonhams
Founded 1793

PROPERTY ABROAD

TUSCANY, ITALY

SPAIN

OFFICES

PROPERTY TO LET

PROPERTY WANTED

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

SECRETARIAL

PEOPLE ... ARE OUR BUSINESS AND COULD BE YOURS.

TEMPS START AT THE TOP
TODAY AT CHALLONERS

NOTICE

All Advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 25

also on page 25

GENERAL

JUDY FARQUHARSON

COMPANY SECRETARY, C.I.S. qualified and legal knowledge. City. Salary £3,000-£4,000.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH EXECUTIVE. German language plus previous quantitative research experience. Travel. W.1. Salary negotiable.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. Industrial Marketing background. A numerate analytical problem solver with bright personality. City. £4,000 +.

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL OFFICER, experience of shop floor and clerical recruitment, training and welfare. Middlesex. Salary negotiable.

FRENCH MARKETING EXECUTIVE, with P.R., marketing, advertising background. French mother-tongue and free to travel. S.W.7. Salary negotiable.

BOOKKEEPER, with typing for small office. W.1. Salary £3,000-£3,800.

SECRETARIES, P.A.'s to College Leavers, dozens of jobs to choose from.

WEST END
17 Stratton Street, W.1. 01-493 8824
CITY
Stone House, 128/140 Bishopsgate, E.C.2. 01-247 1388

SECRETARIES

A Canadian Company with Branch Offices in London has vacancies for well-educated secretaries. For each Branch we are seeking a Secretary to work for a group of Sales Representatives in bright modern offices. Duties will include shorthand, typing, some interesting figure work and dealing with clients.

Successful applicants will have good secretarial skills, O level English and Maths and be pleasant in voice and manner.

For an early interview, please telephone Miss Wood at Guildford (0483) 71255 (reversing the charge).

THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

WANTED:

4 WALKIE-TALKIE LIVING DOLLS

to train as Guides and Aides to the P.R., Sales and Management staff on a glamorous riverside development in the City of London. Flattering uniform, lots of fun and hard work. Good salary and fringe benefits.

RING: ANDREW. 01-790 7979.

STATE REGISTERED NURSE

Required to operate an old established Mayfair nurses agency. Experience preferred but not essential. Good negotiable salary and incentives.

Please write to Box 2488 M, The Times.

P.R. ASSISTANT

Our client, a leading P.R. Company in the heart of Mayfair, are seeking the girl with loads of initiative, bags of energy, plus good typing and telephone manner, to assist an executive in all aspects of public relations. Salary £2,300 plus 3 weeks' holidays. Call JUDI WOOD, 493 1888.

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

GIRL FRIDAY

Friendly girl aged 18+ to work flexible hours in informal Baker Street offices. With good typing she can take on a variety of interesting duties, including advertising and customer liaison.
Salary £1,800-ish.
Susan Hamilton,
Personnel,
34 St. George's Street, W.1.
01-499 5406

£2,500 FOR GOOD WAGES CLERK

Opportunity for a young woman with relevant background experience and knowledge of a computerized payroll, to work for extremely nice S.W.1. company, dealing with approximately 200 staff. Good conditions, holidays and L.V.s. Miss Grant, CHALLONERS, 193 Victoria St., S.W.1. 828 3845.

GET ON WITH THE GIRLS!

Excellent position open to an intelligent young woman looking for a more responsible role, as Supervisor over small, friendly typing team who do copy and audio work. Must have mature outlook, able to liaise at all levels, etc. Good starting salary, £1.50 L.V.s. Miss Lamb, CHALLONERS, 54 Bow Lane, E.C.4. 248 9471.

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

required by busy W.1 personnel consultancy. Suit young, well-spoken girl who likes meeting people. Top salary negotiable.

TELEPHONE 01-437 2062

MATURE TELEPHONIST/RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Lady aged 35 to 45 with experience of PABX 1 board required for luxurious offices of Private Bank in W.1. The person appointed will share duties in our Reception area as Telephonist/Receptionist and in our General Office as Copy Typist. Must be quick and accurate typist and be prepared to type figure work for schedules, etc.

Excellent conditions includes 4 weeks' holiday per year, free lunches and hours 9.30 to 5.15 p.m. Excellent salary negotiable.

RING MRS. MEADOWS, BETWEEN 9.30 AND 4 P.M., MONDAY TO THURSDAY. 01-486 6351.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

BOOKKEEPER/RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Residential college requires bookkeeper/receptionist. Ability to deal with professional people. Salary £2,200. Flexible hours.

Ring Miss Y. Anderson, 405 3474, Ext. 170, after 10 a.m.

TELEPHONIST RECEPTION / TYPIST 20 PLUS

required for Chartered Surveyors, Fleet Street. Salary £3,000+, 4 weeks holiday this year.

Ring David Wiseman or Robin Dollar on 01-353 6162.

ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1 RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

required for busy office of international property consultants. Smart appearance, good diction and typing essential. 5-day week. Salary around £2,000. Please phone 01-499 0562.

ENTREPRENEUR £2,500 + +

Administrator required for small but expanding Employment Agency in W.1. She will be responsible for all administration, assisting with policy decisions, PAYE, client contact, typing, simple bookkeeping, etc. She must be 30-35, enthusiastic and hard working. Sound like you? Then ring Sue Morris, 01-439 9351. London Appointments.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO

needs intelligent, clear thinking, clear speaking lady for Telephone / Reception, general duties, small amount typing. Salary by arrangement, approx. £1,800 p.a.

Ring 01-353 5841 or write Wadham Artists, St. Brides House, Salisbury Square, EC4Y 8EH.

ADMIN OFFICER IN PERSONNEL

First class opening for a graduate or someone with H.N.D. who can deal with people at all levels, write own reports and handle a little figure work. She must have bright personality, plenty of 'get up and go', some typing ability and be looking for a career. Ring Mrs. Turner,
CHALLONERS,
145 Oxford St., W1. 437 5022.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER required as Personal Assistant to deputy registrar to deal with verification of qualifications, determination of overseas students' status, liaison with U.C.C.A. and various other duties requiring initiative. Graduate preferred. Experience in university work desirable. Annual leave, four weeks plus two weeks during which college is closed. Salary on scale £1,734 by £75 to £2,184 plus £399 London allowance and threshold payments.—Further details from Deputy Registrar, University College London, Gower St., WC1E 6BT.

GENERAL

We are seeking a sensible

YOUNG LADY

for a commodity trading office in the W.1 area.

This is an interesting post which requires varied experience and will entail an aptitude for reception, communication, typing, and some secretarial and general commercial office duties.

We require a lady who can exercise initiative and work with a small friendly team in a pleasant modern office with very good working conditions.

Preferred age is 20 to 35 and we offer a salary of £2,400 plus L.V.s and B.U.P.A. Holiday arrangements will be honoured.

Telephone 01-487 4301 and ask for Paula Waddington

FRIENDLY, CHEERFUL INTERVIEWER

needed to join the team at

PATHFINDERS

If you have a friendly manner, lots of patience, and enjoy helping people—come and see us. Previous interviewing experience would be a great help but isn't absolutely essential.

TOP SALARY

PATHFINDERS BUREAU
32 Maddox St., W.1. 629 5401
Permanent and Temporary SECRETARIAL & GENERAL OFFICE PERSONNEL

FILMS—TV—RECORDS—AND ADVERTISING

SECRETARY/SHORTHAND-TYPIST

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, W.1

Responsible Secretary required by Professor of Pharmacology. The post offers interesting and important work in both departmental teaching and research. 4 weeks' annual holiday. Salary £2,364 per annum on a scale rising to £2,814. Please ring 01-636 8333, ext. 7332.

CAREER IN PERSONNEL

Are you looking for a position with involvement, responsibility and opportunity? Are you confident, outgoing and mature, with lots of initiative, stability and a sales orientated/administrative background? If so, we are a leading international Personnel consultancy and need you to assist in the running of one of our expanding branches. Excellent scope and satisfaction for the successful candidate. Call Sandra Gibbons Now! 734 0911.

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST/TYPIST

required for Fine Art Publishers situated in the Portobello Rd. A young enthusiastic person for interesting and varied work in friendly atmosphere. Would suit an 18-yr-old with some previous office experience. Salary £1,800.
Please telephone

229 8791

and ask for Miss Raggett

INTERVIEWERS

MALE/FEMALE to £2,400 required for the biggest privately owned Agency in Central London. Experience is preferred but full training given to bright lively personalities. Genuine managerial prospects—Manager's salary £3,000 basic, plus excellent bonuses. Age immaterial from 21 years.

Ring Jackie Saunders on 01-278 3255 for more details.

SECRETARIAL

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

with fluent English and French and shorthand in both, you're vital to the international department of stockbrokers in EC2. £3,100+.

Please dial 493 7807

DON'T SPEAK JUST LISTEN

FOLLOW THE SCENT

And join this super W.1. Co. as Secretary to the scientific officer. You will be involved in very interesting experiments with perfumes and cosmetics, attending meetings and discussions, dealing with correspondence, lots of telephone work. They are a friendly bunch and want someone to muck in with them. 3 weeks holidays, 9-5 or 9.30-5.30, LV's plus, £2,300. Call Sue Cunningham, 734 7186, Office Overload, 208 Regent Street, W.1.

TELEVISION COMPANY W.1

Wants you to join them as secretary for the managing director. Top job where you will become part of a get-ahead team. Rusty shorthand is all you need to start you on the road to success in this lucrative business. £2,200. Call Anne Morris, 734 0911. Drake Personnel, 225 Regent Street, W.1.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING EDITOR needs a super Secretary to look after herself; the Assistant Editor; the Magazine. Must not be too proud to make coffee, open bottles of wine, guard the petty cash and see that editorial life runs smoothly. Sense of humour and good shorthand typing of course. Write, telling us about yourself, to Beverlie Flower, Personnel Manager, The National Magazine Co., Chestergate House, Vauxhall Bridge Rd., London, SW1V 1HF.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE. Sales Manager of popular consumer product with considerable client contact seeks a mature, well groomed Secretary Assistant. Salary to £2,300 + fringe benefits. Call Centacom Staff, 937 6525, 225 Kensington High St., W.8

SECRETARY for Director of European H.Q. of American company. A knowledge of German would be helpful. Small luxurious prestige offices in St. James's St. Age early 20s. Salary £2,500 ...

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY TO SENIOR PARTNER

CITY E.C.4. £2,450-£2,750

WELL ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONAL FIRM

We are looking for a well groomed Secretary aged 24-30, with previous City experience either legal merchant banking or stockbroking who has good educational background and secretarial training, and is able to deal with clients and colleagues at all levels.

She will deal with all aspects of secretarial work and should have a good telephone manner and speeds 120/60 plus. Hours 9.30 to 5.30 but should be willing to stay later if required. 30p L.V.s per day.

Applications will be forwarded unopened to our clients.

Please address to: Ref. SSP8259/TT. Campbell-Johnston Recruitment Advertising Ltd., 35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH

THE LONDON CLINIC,

20 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, LONDON W1N 2DH

DEPUTY DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY,

age group 24-35, required for Diagnostic X-Ray Department. Good experience of medical terminology and proficiency in shorthand or audio typing essential. The duties involve, assistance with administration of the Department. Inclusive salary £2,418-£2,778. Meals on duty, provided gratis. Apply to the Secretary, X-Ray Department, The London Clinic or telephone Mrs. Paolucci—01-935 4444 extn. 350.

TRAVEL—OPERATIONS £2,500

A talent to organise plus secretarial skills are the key qualities desired to step into this PA opportunity. Working solely for the European Planning Manager your initiative will be utilised to the hilt. Lots of people contact and the travel perks are out of this world. Age 20+. Call Christopher Wallsgrove:

637 3787

PRIME APPOINTMENTS

LET'S GO TO SAN FRANCISCO £2,400

World wide Passenger Liner—Travel Group have a great opportunity for a top-knotch Secretary. Working for one boss who's the Development Manager. You will have lots of responsibility and involvement in a very interesting field. A nice scene here with flexi-hours, regular rises and travel perks. Age 19+. For more information please phone Mr. C. Wallsgrove.

637 3787

PRIME APPOINTMENTS

SENIOR SECRETARY

Secretary/Shorthand Typist required for Partner in firm of Chartered Accountants. 1 minute from Holborn tube. Experience at senior level required. Salary £2,250 p.a. plus L.V.s; regular salary reviews. 4 weeks' holiday (commitments honoured). I.B.M. golfball. Flexible hours. No colour T.V.!

telephone Mr. I. Miller
01-405 4399.

FAMOUS TV CRITIC

A well known TV personality and journalist is looking for a first class PA/Secretary who shares his interest in politics and current affairs. She will assist in the preparation and recording of his programmes. Age, mid 20's. Salary circa £2,300.

Senior Secretaries
173 New Bond St., W.1
01-499 0092 : 01-493 5907

LANGUAGES ADMINISTRATOR

Want more responsibility? Opportunity for intelligent Sec./Administrator with S/h to join growing W.1 Languages/translation Agency to organize and administrate all work. Must be efficient, hard working, and unflappable with fluency in at least one European language, preferably German. Lots of client contact. Sal. neg.
Tel. NOW 323 0631 or 323 1118.

GET INTO ADVERTISING

By joining this super American Co. As Sec. to the director and his team enjoy real job involvement, lots of client/press liaison, travel arrangements, typing editorials. Excellent promotion prospects. Xmas bonus discount on certain goods. Salary £2,100 neg.—Call Gina MacKenzie, 734 0911 Drake Personnel, 225 Regent Street, W.1.

TOP JOB—TOP SALARY

If you can organize a chairman, then this is the position for you. Keep the operation running smoothly while the boss is travelling—use your initiative, handle responsibility. Could be travel possibilities for you. Good prospects and fringe benefits. Salary £2,500 + good reviews. Call Eileen Anderson, 734 0911. Drake Personnel, 225 Regent Street, W.1.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY to Managing Director. Our client is an International Management Consultant whose company occupies superb offices near Green Park. He needs a P.A. with impeccable secretarial skills, good personality, appearance and education to deal with clients and candidates at all levels. Ideally, applicants should be aged 38 to 48 and the starting salary would be not less than £3,000 per annum. Please telephone Mrs. King for initial interview 493 5787. Gordon Yates Ltd., 35 Old Bond Street, W.1.

NICE JOB IN CHELSEA for a competent Secretary with some shorthand, for small company based in super private house. Will act as a personal assistant helping to run the business alongside two main executives. Really nice, interesting role. £2,300 but more for right girl. Miss Ashton, Challoners, 5 7 Brompton Rd., S.W.3. 581 2753.

WHOSE AFRAID OF FIGURES? Especially when it's a nice job with a friendly team of people acting as Secretary, and coping with some simple accounts work ...

SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN £2,500

Well known Merchant Bank is seeking top level Secretary for their super Chairman. Must have good secretarial skills together with poise and personality. Excellent fringe benefits and modern offices.

Please call Miss Davis on 629 2238 or 493 2441.

THORNHILL MARY STUART BUREAU

Knightsbridge

Fast moving Executive needs lively competent

SECRETARY—21+

to run his office. Tolerance, humour, good skills (hopefully shorthand) are essential. Holidays honoured (3 weeks paid holiday this year), excellent staff restaurant. Salary neg. a.a.e.

Please telephone: Mrs Platt on 01-235 6060

ACADEMIC WORLD SECRETARIES N.W.1/W.C.1

Finance Secretary 25+ to £2,600. Pharmacology Dept. no s/h. 30+. To £2,300. Science Faculty Admin. to £2,200. Part time typist 17½ hours.
COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
53 Fleet Street, E.C.4.
353 7696.

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY

Reuters Ltd., the world-wide general and business news agency, requires an intelligent secretary to work for 2 Assistant Overseas Managers dealing with Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. Good shorthand and typing speeds are essential for this interesting and varied position. Hours of work are 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
We offer a starting salary of £2,353 p.a., inclusive of threshold element, 4 weeks' annual holiday, and a subsidised staff restaurant.

Please telephone or write to:

MRS. J. LAWTON,
REUTERS LTD.,
85 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4AJ. Tel. 01-353 6060, ext. 262.

SECRETARY

SALES DIRECTOR

The Sales Director of Lentheric Morny, Bond Street, is looking for a competent secretary with exceptional secretarial skills and able to work on own initiative. The work is constant and varied and the successful candidate must be capable of working under presure in a busy office. Age is immaterial.

Salary is negotiable from £2,200. We offer generous discounts on company products such as Tweed, Morny soap and bath preparations and Cyclax beauty products. The hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 3 weeks' holiday a year and LV's.
Please contact in writing or by phone: Miss Wooding at Lentheric Morny Ltd., 17 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4AY. 01-629 7292.

CANADIAN COMPANY

Director of a progressive investment company with expanding European organisation requires a personal secretary with at least 3 years office experience. Knowledge of German would be an advantage. Accuracy and good presentation are more important than speed in this small friendly Mayfair office. IBM Executive.

Salary £2,200 plus L.V.s

Please telephone Miss Ogden 01-493 4725

PART-TIME SECRETARY/PA TO MANAGER

Italian Wine Company

I am looking for a bright Secretary with bookkeeping experience to work 4 hours (flexible) a day in a lovely London office near Trafalgar Square. No shorthand. Knowledge of Italian preferable but not essential. Salary £30 p.w.

TELEPHONE:
01-382 9391
or 01-836 0894.

HOLIDAY PAY FOR TEMPORARIES TO BOOT!

If you are saving for a holiday you should know that Norma Skemp not only pay the highest rates for temporary secretaries, but after regular work, they even give a holiday bonus. Ring Helen or Diana on 01-222 6064.

NORMA SKEMP PERSONNEL SERVICES LTD.,
14 Broadway, Westminster,
London, S.W.1.
(opp. St. James's Park Underground)

SECRETARY/SHORTHAND TYPIST 21-35 for two Senior Executives at small modern London, W.1 office of well-known Midlands Company. Responsible, interesting and varied work requiring expert typing and initiative. 4 weeks holiday, L.V.s. Salary up to £3,500. Bamford 499 6744 or 491 2821.

PER Executive Secretaries

Bringing Management selection standards to the recruitment of Personal Assistants and Executive Secretaries.

Chairman EC4 up to £2750

of major British company with wide-ranging interests seek a senior Secretary, preferably with experience in an international organisation. She will work in conjunction with his other secretary and be involved in arranging functions and liaise with senior management, and must obviously have the poise and skills required for such a senior appointment.

Contact Miss Bellman 235 9984

Chief Accountant SW1 £2750

of government-sponsored organization seeks competent Secretary with good technical skills and the ability to become part of a team as she will work in conjunction with his senior secretary. It's an interesting and busy job, mainly involving correspondence and minutes of meetings, offering a secure and progressive future.

Contact Mrs Shaerf 235 9984

Advertising EC4 £2600 neg.

Joint MD of international agency seeks an outstanding PA/Sec. Previous advertising experience is essential, as she must understand the business, and be able to establish priorities. The job offers total involvement in a busy and successful company, and will appeal to someone aged 25-35 with the background and personality to handle real responsibility.

Contact Mrs Allison 235 9984

Director W1 £2500 neg.

responsible for London sales office of well-known manufacturing company seeks a PA/Sec who will have total responsibility for office administration. She must be able to liaise with overseas clients and compose her own letters and have sufficient self-motivation and common sense to run the office effectively with the minimum of supervision.

Contact Mrs Allison 235 9984

Employee Relations Chiswick £2500+

Area Mgr. for Employee Relations of international oil marketing company seeks a PA/Sec with the intelligence and initiative to play an active and responsible role in his department. She is probably over 25, with experience at senior management level, and wishes to further her career in a fast-moving organisation which will make real use of her ability. Company benefits are outstanding.

Contact Miss Bellman 235 9984

Architects King's Cross £2,500 neg.

seek an extrovert PA/Sec. who enjoys meeting people, coping with problems, and handling a non-routine busy job with flair. It's a small and friendly practice with a young and lively staff, and although similar experience would be useful, common sense, and initiative are the qualities they really need.

Contact Mrs Shaerf 235 9984

Career Opportunities

We are currently handling a wide range of interesting and well-paid appointments for experienced secretaries in both central and outer London. Please contact Mrs Chilton on 01-235 9984.

4-5 Grosvenor Place, London SW1

BOND ST. BUREAU

GREEK SHIP BROKERS—top-level P.A./Secretary for family business: charm, sense of humour and top skills essential. £3,000

PUBLISHING YOUR FIELD? Administrative P.A./Secretary for leading Publishers: wide range of adult books. Excellent skills. £2,700

A REAL P.A.—Promotions Manager of West End Cosmetics Group seeks 'A' level girl. Excellent perks. £2,400

TELEVISION TEMPORARY. Press and T.V. office of leading television group requires Temporary P.A./Secretary: immediate booking. £47+

629 3692 499 1658

INTELLIGENT TEMPS

Are you an experienced Secretary with an alert mind and a flair for handling people?

Would you enjoy using your brain as well as your tired typewriter bashing finger? Being a Career Girl temporary means meeting interesting people, satisfying work and being appreciated as an intelligent thinking person.

Call Maggie Webb on 493 8982 for further details.

CAREER GIRL LTD

Book Sales and Marketing Orientated?

Join this well known W.1. company specialising in the distribution of books. As secretary to the sales manager and marketing executive you'll be involved with reps in the field, keeping diaries and making appointments. Enjoy working in a jolly atmosphere, huge discount on a variety of goods, free tea and coffee plus a salary around £2,000. Call Heather Postle, 734 7186.

OFFICE OVERLOAD,
208 Regent Street, W.1.

MAJOR TV NETWORK

needs a bright girl with plenty of commonsense to play an important part in the running of their Advertising Dept. Lots of telephone work and client contact. Must type! (Shorthand not necessary).

£2,200 p.a.

PATHFINDERS

629 3132

SANDY BROWN ASSOCIATES, W.1

require

A first class Secretary who will be responsible to two partners. She will also answer the phones and do simple bookkeeping. Interested?

Ring Andrea 387 7325.

MONEY MATTERS

Our client, the Chairman of a well-known City Bank, is seeking a bright, well-organized person to work jointly with his existing Secretary. Apart from good speeds a sense of humour and good appearance are important. The work is extremely varied, the offices pleasant, and co. benefits good. Sal. £2,600.
Tel. Jenny Summerfield
589 4451/584 4223
NEW HORIZONS
49 Brompton Road, S.W.3.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

This expanding W.1 Co. of solicitors wants you, a secretary capable of handling PA duties. By assisting the company's principal you'll learn a lot about the legal profession. Reap the benefits of this knowledge in the near future. Interested? Call Eileen Anderson, 734 0911, Drake Personnel, 225 Regent Street, W.1.

ARE YOU OUR BUSY BEE? SECRETARY

required for lively entertainments organisation. W.1. Accurate typing and proficiency in shorthand or audio work essential. Please telephone 01-437 5800/4585 or 734 1071.

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WHEN FLYING

(continued on page 28)

Broadcasting

[illegible] apart. Aunty Beeb worries about those Reds under the bed with a [documentary] about the dreaded KGB (BBC1 9.25) but Sir Lew Grade counters [with h]is right royal serial on the life of Edward the Seventh (ITV 9.0). Controversy [(BBC1] 8.0) starts a two-day debate on the EEC with yet more of our resident [pundit]s. Images of Childhood (BBC2 9.0) offers a horrific and much-recommended [...] Ronnie Barker in the Book Programme (BBC2 7:35) is a better bet than the [...]ed Sykes (BBC1 7:40). The wild coot is shown Bristol fashion in Animal Magic [(BBC1] 5.15) and there is late-night soccer (ITV 10.30).—L.B.

BBC 2

6.40 am, Open University: A View of Middlemarch. 7.05, Maths. 7.30-7.55, Mechanics. 11.00-11.25, Play School. 5.00 pm, Open University: 5.00-5.25, Pure Maths. 5.50, Maths. 6.15, Environment. 6.40, Model World. 7.05, Open University: Cell Dynamics (1). 7.30, News. [...]

Thames

12.00, Hickory House. 12.15 pm, King Wilbur III. 12.30, Westcountry Fare. 1.00, News. 1.20, Lunchtime Today. 1.30, Emmerdale Farm. 2.00, Good Afternoon. 2.30, Rooms. 3.00, World Championship of Tennis. 3.55, Quick on the Draw. 4.25, Shang A Lang. 4.50, How. 5.20, The Flintstones. [...]

ATV

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Lunchtime Newsdesk. 1.30, Thames. 3.00, The Saint.* 3.55, Thames. 5.20, The Partridge Family. 5.50, News. 6.00, ATV Today. 6.35, Crossroads. 7.00, Cartoon. 7.10, Film, They Call It Murder, with Jim Hutton. 9.00, Thames. 11.30-12.00, Twilight Zone.*

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". . . There is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."—Romans 8 : 1.

BIRTHS

BICKMORE.—On 19 May, at Queen Charlotte's, London, W.6., to Alison (née Shaw) and David—a son (Francis).

BRIDGE.—On 16 May, 1975, to Lilac and Patten—a daughter (Victoria Alice Louise).

BRIGGS.—On Saturday, 17th of May, to Annabel and David—a daughter ...

[illegible]

RAPPLE.—On May 17, at Princess Alexandra's R.A.F. Hospital, Wroughton, to Elizabeth (née Stooke) and Terry Rapple—a daughter (Louise Emily).

RAYNE-DAVIS.—On 14th May, 1975, at Harrogate General Hospital, to Wendy (née Ives) and John—a son (Charles John Richard).

UTTEN TODD.—On May 14th, at the American University Hospital, Beirut, to Susan (née Briscoe) and James Utten Todd—a son (Duncan James).

WARRY.—On 17th May, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Jane (née Pratten) and Peter—a daughter.

MARRIAGES

BROOKE : BAXTER.—On 17th of May, 1975, at the Chapel of Scottish Church's House, Dunblane, by Reverend Richard F. Baxter, O.B.E., B.D., Simon, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brooke, 10 Forbes Rd., Edinburgh, to Julie, daughter of Reverend and Mrs. R. F. Baxter, Coniston, Gawdor Crescent, Dunblane.

FAIRES : SCRIMSHAW.—On May 17th at Holy Trinity Church, Northwood, Roland Clive, son of Mr. and Mrs. Deryck Faires, of Ruislip, to Diana Hilary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scrimshaw, of Northwood.

GIBBONS : MILLER. — On 15th May, quietly at Williton, Somerset, Mr. Geoffrey Gibbons, of Park House, West Porlock, and Mrs. Jean Miller, of Edgcott, Exford.

McIVER : WIAK.—On May 16th, 1975, in Warsaw, Nicholas McIver, of Rye, Kent, to Elzbiela Wiak, of Warsaw.

WILKIN : EASON.—On May 17th, 1975, at the Crypt Chapel, Palace of Westminster, Frederick John Wilkin to Laura Elizabeth Eason.

SILVER WEDDINGS

BLACK : TITFORD.—On 20th May, 1950, at Highgate School Chapel, Major William Ellis Black, Royal Artillery, to Mary Titford. Address: Russell House, South Grove, Highgate Village, N.6.

DEATHS

ANTONIETTI.—On May 14th, 1975, at Glendaph Nursing Home, Kingsland, Herefordshire, Mary (born Ledlard), widow of Aldo Antonietti, aged 81. Cremation private. No flowers, but donations to Musicians' Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London, W.1.

BABER.—On May 17, suddenly, William Brian, loved and loving husband of Claudine, father of Pauline. Requiem mass on Wed., May 21, at Clifton Cathedral, Bristol, at 3 p.m.

BARSON.—On May 17th at the Brent Nursing Home, Kenneth dearly beloved husband of Viva. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium, Thursday 22nd May at 2.15 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Donne and Co., 39 Brent St., Hendon N.W.4.

BINFIELD.—On May 17 in a road accident, Simon Binfield, aged 17, the much loved and now much mourned son of Kenneth and Molly and brother of Julia. Cremation to take place on Thursday, 22nd May, at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, at 2 p.m. Cut flowers only, please, and enquiries to James Peddle, 65 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts.

BISHOP.—On May 16th, 1975, at Wonford Hospital, Exeter, after a short illness, Wing Commander Norman Edwin Bishop (retired), of 59 Barnhayes, Sidmouth. Much loved father of Max and Margot and brother of Dorothy. Funeral service at Sidmouth Parish Church on Thursday, May 22nd, at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Royal Air Force Association, c/o Derek Parry, Fortfield Chambers, Sidmouth.

BLAND.—On May 16, 1975, in Hong Kong, after a brief illness, Douglas Roland Bland, beloved husband of Veronica, dearest father of Siobhan, Diarmuid and Clodagh, and son of Mrs. C. F. Bland, 19 Crawshaw Grove, Beauchief, Sheffield.

BLINKHORN.—On May 19th, 1975, in hospital, William Arthur Haynes Blinkhorn, of 69 Highfield Avenue, N.W.11. Cremation Golders Green Crematorium on Friday, May 23rd, at 12.45 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Donne & Co., 39 Brent Street, Hendon, N.W.4.

BRAMWELL.—On Saturday, 17th May, 1975, Commander Hugh Peter Bramwell, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.N. (retired), of The Long ...

[illegible]

CHILLINGWORTH.—On May 17th, 1975, peacefully, in her own home, Mead Cottage, Cockington Lane, Torquay, after a long illness patiently borne, Vera Constance Chillingworth, in her 83rd year. Funeral service at St. Matthew's Church, Torquay, on Friday, May 23rd, at 12 noon, prior to cremation. Flowers may be sent to Torbay and District Funeral Service, Wellswood, Torquay.

[illegible]

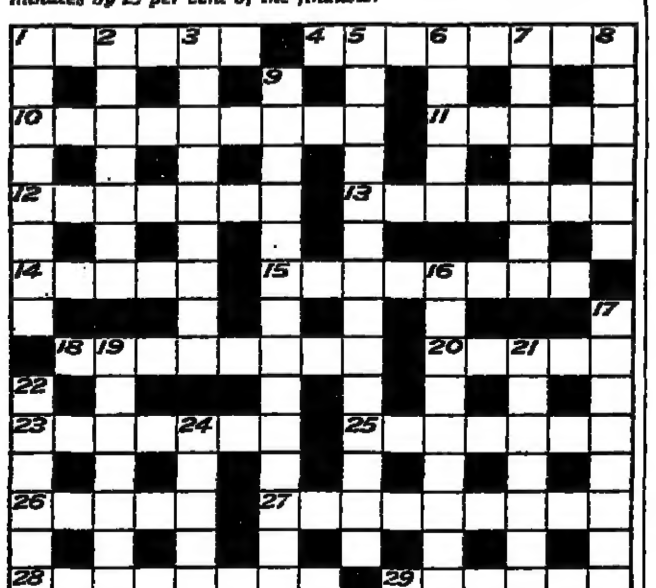
SHICKLE, AMY LAURA, on 18th May. Funeral Service at Ruislip Baptist Church, on Friday, 23rd May, at 11 a.m. Flowers to E. Sargeant & Son, Church St., Slough, Berks.

STOREY.—On Wednesday, 14th May, 1975, peacefully at Broadstairs, Winifred Storey, aged 80 years, dearly loved mother of Graham and widow of Stanley

[illegible]

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,998

This puzzle, used at the Knutsford regional final of the Cutty Sark/Times Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 29 per cent of the finalists.



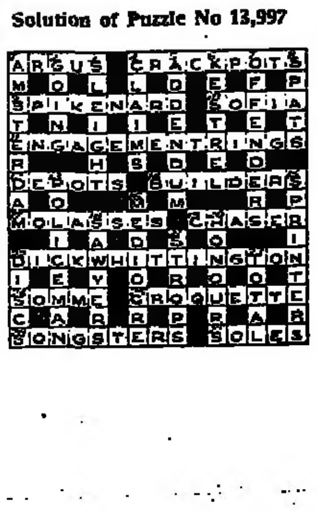
ACROSS

1 Fair-minded victualler of a confused type? (6).
4 A scholar with floral buttons (8).
10 False alarms let us suspect something's wrong (5, 1, 3).
11 Is furious if 'e's poorly dressed (5).
12 Brown has Indian city figurine (7).
13 A springtime measure here for lasses and lads (7).
14 A man's man (if not a hero's) (5).
15 An Athenian acted in any element (8).
18 Occasional raid cops turn out for (8).
20 A gem ring returned by letter (5).
23 Call in question such over-representation in Parliament? (7).
25 Narrow-minded when surrounded by 28? (7).
26 Kipling's Boy in the betting—don't be extravagant (5).
27 He's selfishly mad to come again anyhow (9).
28 O-level? It's elementary for Jack (3-5).
29 They indicate times for summer elevenses by winter reckoning (6).

DOWN

1 Certain it's the true picture? (8).
2 "A pulse in the —— mind" (Brooke) (7).
3 Mrs Malaprop's Nilotic allegory (9).
5 Having capital, I'm out to ruin George (9, 5).
6 Henry includes precautions against raids by a monster (5).
7 A layer of straw? (7).
8 How unemployed actor played God (post-Creation) (6).
9 4's fare with 22 (5, 3, 6).
16 Picture by satellite has space problem (9).
17 Demonstrates against army quarters (8).
19 Quiet start to jokers' day—toss up a kilo of red pepper! (7).
21 A treat with tea in Fleet Street dens? (7).
22 Unknown quantities? (6).
24 Star begins what 20 ends (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 13,997



Loneliness...

Peggy devoted years to care for her blind mother. Now, in old age, she is totally alone and in pain. No-one to speak to. Solitude is even harder to bear than damp, dilapidated housing. Help the Aged's flats for needy old people are well known. Less well known is its increasing help by providing Day Centres and other services to combat soul destroying loneliness. £150 inscribes a name on the Founders' Plaque of a Day Centre.

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The Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T5, 8 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.

DEATHS

[illegible]

IN MEMORIAM

[illegible]

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

[illegible]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ST. MAUR'S

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[illegible]

THE CREAM OF THE CROP!!

[illegible]

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGES 26 and 27

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

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We're fighting to establish a new kind of hospital, specializing in diseases of the heart and circulation and providing a full general medical and surgical service.

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EXETER LAW FACULTY is holding a reunion for past Graduates in Exeter on June 14. Anyone interested who has not received the first and second notices, please write for details to: C. Gordon, Law Faculty, University of Exeter, Exeter.

CROTALUS ADAMANTEUS and Salmo Sala can be seen in metal in the Haymarket (London, SW1), in the windows of Finnair. Presented by ESAB, the Welding People, by courtesy of Finnair.

SUMMER CRASH COURSES. French, German, etc.—See Services.

SAVE THE NEW Capital Taxes.—See Services.

THE LADY HOARE TRUST has moved from London to 7 North Street, Midhurst, Sussex. Please continue your support by delivering or posting first class clothing to L.H.T. Shops Ltd., Church Hill, Midhurst, Sussex. POSTAGE REFUNDED IF REQUESTED.

ON DEVON/CORNWALL BORDER.—Strand Hotel—see U.K. Hols.

ASHURSTWOOD, Sussex.—Holidaymakers or commuters.—See U.K. Hols.

WANTED.—Central London or Hampstead Heath. Flat or house, see Property Wanted.

JULIANA'S mobile discotheque.—See Services.

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL. Booking now. See Concerts.

HOUSE/APARTMENT CLEANING. See Home Services.

CARPETS ex-Exhibition—Sapphire Carpets.—See Sales & Wants.

ANOREXIA NERVOSA. Compulsive fasting, stuffing. 01-748 4587.

SEARCY'S ANNOUNCE mistake "Bride's" May issue. Catering prices HALF those quoted. 584 3344.

HELP CONQUER CANCER with a Legacy. Legacies and Covenants in favour of the Cancer Research Campaign will support many worthwhile research projects. The campaign is the largest single supporter of research into all forms of cancer, including leukaemia, in the U.K. Details from Dept. TXL, Cancer Research Campaign, Freepost, London, SW1Y 5YT.

DAUNOU 3 days have changed my life. I miss you. Saudades D.H.

ART GALLERY (new) needs help.—See General/Secretarial.

[illegible]

TROUT/SALMON fishing courses. 3-day residential, stocked fishery. Few vacancies end May-June and August-September. "These now famous courses" (The Field, 1973). Lt.-Col. Esmond Drury, Lampton, Spilsby, Lincs.

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SPORT AND RECREATION

[illegible]

UK HOLIDAYS

[illegible]

UK HOLIDAYS

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[illegible]

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[illegible]

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GREEK TOURIST AGENCY. Hotels, Villas and Flats.—01-580 3152 (ATOL 547B).

(continued on page 27)

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